

ILLUSTRIOUS SEAMEN, &c. 471

" complaints of his mariners, and fishers, upon the coasts
 " of Scotland, that within these four, or five last years,
 " the Low-Country fishers have taken so great advan-
 " tages of his majesty's toleration, that they have
 " grown nearer, and nearer, upon his majesty's coasts,
 " year, by year, than they did in preceding times,
 " without leaving any bounds for the country-people,
 " and natives to fish upon their prince's coasts, and
 " oppressed some of his subjects, of intent to continue
 " their pretended possession, and driven some of their
 " great vessels through their nets, to deter others, by
 " fear of the like violence, from fishing near them,
 " &c. His majesty cannot forbear to tell them, that
 " he is so well persuaded of the equity of the states,
 " and of the honourable respect which they bear unto
 " him, and to his subjects, for his sake, that they
 " will never allow so unjust, and intolerable oppres-
 " sions; for restraint whereof, and to prevent the in-
 " conveniencies which must ensue, upon the continu-
 " ance of the same, his majesty hath, by me, desired
 " them to write to their superiors to cause proclama-
 " tion to be made, prohibiting any of their subjects to
 " fish within fourteen miles of his majesty's coasts,
 " during this year, or in any time hereafter, until
 " orders be taken by commissioners, to be authorized
 " on both sides, for a final settling of the main busi-
 " ness. His majesty hath likewise directed me to
 " command you from him to make the like declara-
 " tion, and instance to the states there, and to certify
 " to his majesty of their answers, with what conveni-
 " ent speed you may."

What effect the negotiation of the ambassador had
 on the states, appears by his letter, from the Hague,
 dated on the sixth of February, in the year, one thou-