

ELIZABETH.
1588.

From the Lord Admiral† to the Same.

SIR,

July the 6th, 1588.

BEING here in the midst of the Channel of the Sleeve, on Friday being the 5th of this month, I received your letter of the 28th of June, and another of the same date, which was written after you had made up your packet.

The cause of the long time that these letters were in coming unto me was, because the pursuivant embarking himself upon the Monday at Plymouth, was fain to beat up and down the sea with a contrary wind until Tuesday, before he could find me.

By your first letter, I find how greatly you stand assured, that neither the French King, nor the havens and port towns, that stand for the King, will give any help or assistance unto the Spanish army. As for New Haven, it is not a place that can serve their turns.

By your other letter you perceive, by an advertisement you have from my brother Stafford, that there is money sent down to Brest and Conquest, for the relief and assistance of the Spanish fleet, if they arrive there. I wish with all my heart, that they were with the best * * * * ‡ they could give them. It should not be long after, but that I would give them another welcome. For if it be they mean to touch there, then assuredly they have a meaning to join forces with the Duke of Parma. I have no doubt, but that Lord Henry Seymour, being so strong as he is, will have a care, that he shall not start any whither to meet them. And it shall be very well that you have some trusty espial there, to give certain intelligence when the Duke's forces shall be ready, that then my Lord Henry

† Lord Charles Howard, afterwards Earl of Nottingham. this letter, could not be filled up, the original being much decayed.

‡ This and several other such gaps, in

Seymour