

reinforce him. Italy sent nine thousand men, under the command of Capizerdei and Spinelli; the Marquis of Borgant, a prince of the house of Austria, levied troops in Germany; the Walloon and Burgundian regiments were recruited and augmented, as was the Spanish infantry. The chief nobility of Italy and Spain were ambitious of sharing the glory of this grand crusade. Don Amadæus of Savoy, Don John of Medicis, Vespasian Gonzaga, Duke of Sabionetta, and the Duke of Partiana, hastened to join the army under the Duke of Parma. About two thousand volunteers in Spain, many of them of high family rank, enlisted in the service. Thirty-four thousand men were kept in readiness in the Netherlands to be sent into England; and the Duke of Parma employed all the carpenters he could procure in Flanders, in Lower Germany, and on the coasts of the Baltic, to construct fat-bottomed boats and vessels to transport, under the convoy of the Spanish fleet, an army of one hundred thousand strong—including cavalry and infantry—to the mouth of the Thames.

On the landing of this army in England, the Pope was to send a million of ducats to the service of the invaders. And so confident was His Holiness of success, and to animate his adherents with intenser zeal, he not only appointed his Archbishop and Legate for England, but issued a new Bull against Queen Elizabeth, denouncing her as a bastard and a heretic, as a treacherous and dissolute tyrant.

During the whole of these enormous preparations, Philip had lulled Elizabeth and her Chief Minister, Burleigh, into a false security, by professing an anxious desire to bring the negotiations for peace, going on in the Netherlands, to an amicable conclusion; and so profoundly had the object of this whole movement been kept secret, that the Duke of Guise in France, the Duke of Parma in the Netherlands, Pope Sextus V. at Rome, and the Spanish ambassador in England, were the only persons who knew where the long-gathering storm would burst. Even when the Armada first left the Tagus, nothing was known in England as to its destination, nor was any special preparation made to meet the impending crisis.

But two Divine instruments of chastisement on the one hand,