

making his preparations. For three years he employed the immense resources of his vast dominions in preparations for this enterprise against England, and requiring corresponding exertions on the part of his confederates and tributaries. All the ports of his wide-spread empire resounded with the noise of armaments, and supplied their contingents in vessels, seamen, and able captains. In the ports of Sicily, Naples, Northern and Central Italy, Portugal, and Spain, carpenters were employed in building ships of uncommon size; the Netherlands were also made to furnish ships, men, and means, on a large scale; vast naval stores were provided, and a fighting fleet was fitted out, consisting of one hundred and twenty-nine vessels, carrying two thousand four hundred and thirty cannon, of the finest construction, and capable of throwing an enormous weight of metal; manned by eight thousand seamen and twenty thousand soldiers besides more than two hundred attendant vessels, carrying abundance of arms, ammunition, and a six months' supply of provisions for forty thousand men: a fleet, for the number and dimensions of its ships, the weight of its metal, the number of its fighting men, and the completeness of its appointments, greater and more formidable than had ever been seen in Europe, and which the Spaniards proudly designated the *Invincible Armada*.

To render this Armada still more invincible, a spiritual, in addition to the material artillery, was provided, consisting of no less than one hundred and eighty friars of different orders, and Jesuit priests, headed by a Vicar-General of the Holy Inquisition; and Dr. Allen, President of the English Seminary at Rheims, was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Legate of the Pope for England, thus anticipating the certain conquest of England, and providing for the great spiritual object of the invasion, by having the whole machinery of the Church and of the Inquisition in readiness for operation as soon as the navy and army had done their work,

But the vast naval preparations for this invasion were exceeded by its still more formidable military preparations. The Duke of Parma, the greatest general of his age, who ruled in the Netherlands, was appointed Commander-in-Chief of this great undertaking. Troops from all quarters were daily arriving to