

driving the Gomarists to despair, the grand pensionary Barnevelt, in hourly expectation of fresh riots, proposed to the states of Holland, that their magistrates should be empowered to raise troops for the suppression of the rioters, and the security of their towns. Dort, Amsterdam, and three others of the most favourable to the Gomarists, protested against this step, which they regarded as a declaration of war against the contra-remonstrants. Barnevelt's motion was however agreed to, and August 4, 1617, the states issued a placart accordingly. This fatal decree occasioned the death of the grand pensionary, and the ruin of Grotius, by incensing Prince Maurice of Nassau against them, who looked upon the resolution of the states, taken without his consent, to be derogatory to his dignity, as governor and captain-general.

Amsterdam, almost as powerful singly as all Holland, favoured the Gomarists, and disapproved the toleration which the states wanted to introduce. These resolved, therefore, to send a deputation to that city, in order to reconcile them to their sentiments. Grotius was one of these deputies: they received their instructions April 21, 1616; and, arriving at Amsterdam next day, met the town-council on the 23d, when Grotius was their spokesman. But neither his speech nor all his other endeavours could avail any thing. The burgomasters declared their opinion for a synod, and that they could not receive the cachet of 1614, without endangering the church, and risking the ruin of their trade. The deputies wanted to answer, but were not allowed. Grotius presented to the states on his return an account in writing of all that had passed at his deputation, and he flattered himself for some time with the hopes of some good effects from it. His disappointment chagrined him so much, that he was seized with a violent fever, which had well nigh carried him off. He was removed to Delft, where he found himself better; but, being forbidden to do any thing which required application, he wrote to Vossius, desiring his company, as the best restorative of his health. The time of his recovery he employed in examining the part he had acted in the present disputes; and the more he reflected on it, the less reason he had for blushing or repentance: he foresaw the danger he incurred, but his resolution was, not to change his conduct, and to refer the event to providence. The states of Holland, wholly employed in seeking ways to compound matters, came to a resolution, February 21, 1617, to make a rule, or for-

mula, to which both parties should be obliged to conform; and such an instrument was accordingly drawn up at their request by Grotius, who presented it to Prince Maurice. But the project did not please him; he wanted a national synod, which was at length determined by the states general, and to be convoked at Dort. In the mean time the Prince, who saw with the utmost displeasure, several cities, agreeably to the permission given them by the particular states, levy a new militia, under the title of Attendant Soldiers, without his consent, engaged the states general to write to the provinces and magistrates of those cities, enjoining them to disband the new levies. This injunction not being complied with, he considered the refusal as a rebellion; and he concerted with the states general, that he should march in person with the troops under his command, to get the attendant soldiers disbanded, depose the Arminian magistrates, and turn out the ministers of their party. He accordingly set out, accompanied by the deputies of the states general, in 1618; and having reduced the province of Gueldres, he was proceeding to Utrecht, when the states of Holland sent thither Grotius, with Hoogartbetz, pensionary of Leyden, to put that city in a posture of defence against him. But their endeavours proving ineffectual, the Prince reduced the place; and soon afterward sent Grotius and Hoogartbetz, to prison at the Hague, where Barnevelt also was confined, August 29th the same year. After this the states of Holland consented to the national synod, which was opened at Dort, November 15, 1618 which, as is well known, ending in a sentence, condemning the five articles of the Arminians, and in imprisoning and banishing their ministers. This sentence was approved by the states general, July 2, 1619.

After the rising of that synod, the three prisoners were brought in order to their trial, the issue of which was the execution of Barnevelt, May 13, 1619. Five days after came on the trial of Grotius. He had been treated as well as his fellow-prisoner with inconceivable rigour during their imprisonment, and also while their cause was depending. He tells us himself, that, when they were known to be ill, it was concerted to examine them; that they had not liberty to defend themselves; that they were threatened and teased to give immediate answers; and not suffered to have their examinations read over to them. Grotius having asked leave to write his defence, was allowed only five hours, and one sheet of paper;