

"effect. The Nobility and Gentry, "with one accord flocked to the "Protestant standard."

In a letter published by the same author in the course of the year, 1858, he describes the origin of the Society somewhat more fully, though substantially the same, in the following language:

"History informs us that, although the Prince of Orange had landed without obstruction and proceeded without opposition, yet for several days he was not without perplexities and difficulties. Though the people were ready enough to show their joy and good wishes, they were extremely fearful of offering their services and persons. The memory of the severities against the Duke of Monmouth's adherents was yet so recent that every one feared to engage in a like enterprise. The Clergy and Magistrates had not made up their minds, and the Bishop and Dean ran off to King James. He was made to believe that all the Gentlemen of the west would join with him, upon his first landing; but, for a length of time, scarce any person of note had come in to him, and he began to think of returning and publishing the invitation he had received from those lords, as a justification for having come at all. He found that the Mayor and Alderman of the city of Exeter came to visit him rather out of fear than affection, being busied in dubious consultations among themselves. He found that as his recruits increased he wanted money to pay off his men as well as the countenance of great persons; and indeed he began so far to doubt the success of his expedition, that, in a council of war held at Exeter, he

suffered it to be proposed to him to re-embark for Holland. We find also, that, in his reply to some persons from Somersetshire and Devonshire he complained of the way in which he was treated,—“We expected that you who dwelt so near the place of our landing would have joined us sooner. Let the whole world now judge if our pretensions are not just, generous, and sincere, and above price, since we might have even a bridge of gold to return back,” &c.

These gentlemen having given in, their adhesion were soon followed by several others of greater note. After their arrival at Exeter, Sir Edward Seymour sent for Dr. Burnet and asked him “Why they had not got an association, without which they were only a rope of sand, and none would think themselves bound to stick to them?”

The Doctor told him, “It was for want of a man of his authority and credit to support such an advice.” He then proposed it to the Prince, who, with the Earl of Shrewsbury, and all present, approved the motion. Accordingly the Doctor drew up an association, which was laid on the table in the Prince's lodgings, in the deanery, where the lords and gentlemen of his court, and others signed it.

It is recorded as an undoubted fact, that from this time the face of the Prince's affairs was entirely changed. Every day persons distinguished by birth, estates, or employments offered him their services.

The powerful effect which this combination of Protestants had upon the country, and especially on the King, may be seen from the following extract from a letter