

the republic; this made him insist, that he should never be turned out; and, upon a promise of this, he accepted of the post, which gave him a seat in the assembly of the states of Holland, and afterward in that of the states-general. Hitherto he had but very little connection with the grand pensionary Barneveldt; but from this time he contracted an intimate friendship with him, inasmuch that it is reported that Barneveldt designed to have his friend succeed him as grand pensionary of Holland.

At this time a dispute rose between the English and the Dutch, concerning the right of fishing in the northern seas. Two Amsterdam vessels, having caught twenty-two whales, in the Greenland ocean, were met by some English ships bound to Russia; who finding that the Dutch had no passports from the king of England, demanded the whales, which the Dutchmen unable to resist, were obliged to deliver. On their arrival in Holland, they made their complaint; and the affair being laid before the states, it was resolved that Grotius, who had written on the subject, and was more master of it than any one, should be sent to England to demand justice; but he could obtain no satisfaction. Hereupon the Dutch determined not to send to Greenland for the future without a sufficient force to revenge themselves on the English, or at least to have nothing to fear from them. The dispute growing serious, to prevent any acts of hostility, a conference was held in 1615, between the commissioners of England and Holland, in which the debate chiefly turned on the whale fishery; but the English insisting on the right to Greenland which the Dutch refused, the conference broke up without any success. Grotius, who was one of the commissioners from Holland, gives the history of this conference, in a letter to Du Maurier, dated at Rotterdam, June 5, 1615. However he had reason to be well satisfied with the politeness of king James, who gave him a gracious reception, and was charmed with his conversation. But the greatest pleasure he received in this voyage was the intimate friendship he contracted with Casaubon: they knew one another before by character, and highly esteemed each other; they became the most intimate friends: in both, the most profound erudition was found, united with the most perfect probity. The United Provinces had been kindled into a warm dispute about grace and predestination, from the year 1608, when Arminius first broached his opinions. His doctrines, being directly opposite to those of Calvin, gave

great offence to that party, at the head of which appeared Gomar, who accused his antagonist before the synod of Rotterdam. Gomar's party prevailing there, Arminius applied to the states of Holland, who promised the disputants to have the affair speedily discussed in a synod. The dispute still continuing with much bitterness, in 1611, the states ordered a conference to be held between twelve ministers on each side; but the consequence of this, like that of most other disputes, especially in matters of religion, was, that men's minds were the more inflamed. Arminius died October 19, 1609, some time before this conference; and Grotius made his eulogium in verse. He had hitherto applied little to these matters, and ingeniously owns he did not understand a great part of them, being foreign to his profession; but, upon a further enquiry, he embraced the Arminian doctrine. In 1610, the partizans of Arminius drew up a remonstrance setting forth their belief; first negatively against their adversaries, and then positively their own sentiments, each comprehended in six articles. This remonstrance was drawn up by Utengobard, minister at the Hague, and was probably made in concert with Grotius, the intimate friend of that minister. To this the Gomarists opposed a contra remonstrance; the former proposed a toleration, the latter a national synod; and the disputes increasing, the states, at the motion of the grand pensionary, in the view of putting an end to them, revived an obsolete law made in 1591, placing the appointment of ministers in the civil magistrates. But this was so far from answering the purpose, that the contra-remonstrancers resolved not to obey it. Hence grew a schism, which occasioned a sedition, and many riots.

It was at this time that Grotius was nominated pensionary at Rotterdam, as mentioned above; and ordered to go to England, with secret instructions, as is thought, to get the king and principal divines of that kingdom to favour the Arminians, and approve the conduct of the states. He had several conferences with king James on that subject. On his return to Holland, he found the divisions increased; Barneveldt and he had the direction of the states proceedings on this matter; and he was appointed to draw up an edict which might restore tranquility. He did so, and the draught was approved by the states; but it was so favourable to the Arminians, that it gave great offence to the contra-remonstrants, who determined to pay no regard to it. Hence this edict serving to increase the troubles, by driving