

all passages lay in ambush like a chiefe, no whit regarding such letters of safe conduct. Some there be which affirme that the Pope had bestowed the realme of England with the title of *Defensor fidei*, upon the king of Spaine, giuing him charge to inuade it upon this condition, that he should enioy the conquered realme, as a vassal and tributarie, in that regard, vnto the sea of Rome. To this purpose the said Pope proffered a million of gold, the one halfe thereof to be paid in ready money, and the other halfe when the realme of England or any famous port thereof were subdued. And for the greater furtherance of the whole buisnesse, he dispatched one D. Allen an English man (whom hee had made Cardinall for the same ende and purpose) into the Low countries, vnto whom he committed the administration of all matters ecclesiasticall throughout England. This Allen being enraged against his owne native countrey, caused the Popes hull to be translated into English, meaning vpon the arrival of the Spanish fleet, to haue it so published in Englands. By which Bull the excommunications of the two former Popes were confirmed, and the Queenes most sacred Maestie was by them most vniuersally deputed of all princely titles and dignities, her subiects being enioined to performe obedience vnto the duke of Parma, and vnto the Popes Legate.

But that all matters might be performed with greater secretie, and that the whole expedition might seeme rather to be intended against the Low countries, then against England, and that the English people might be perswaded that all was but bare words & threatnings, and that nought would come to effect, there was a solemn meeting appointed at Borborch in Flanders for a treaty of peace betwene her maiestie and the Spanish king.

Against this treatie the united prouinces making open protestation, bled all meanes possible to prevent it, alleging that it was moze requisite to consult how the enemye now pressing vpon them might be repelled from off their frontiers. Howbeit some there were in England that greatly liked and prosecuted this league, saying, that it would be very commodious vnto the state of the realme, as well in regard of traffique and nauigation, as for the auoiding of great expences to maintaine the warres, affirming also, that at the same time peace might easily and vpon reasonable conditions be obtained of the Spaniard. Others thought by this meanes to diuert some of their way, or to keepe backe the nauy now coming vpon them, and so to escape the danger of that tempest. Howsoeuer it was, the duke of Parma by these wiles enchanted and dazzled the eyes of many English & Dutch men that were desirous of peace: whereupon it came to passe, that England and the united prouinces prepared in deed some defence to withstand that dreadfull expedition and huge Armada, but nothing in comparison of the great danger which was to be feared, albeit the constant report of the whole expedition had continued rise among them for a long time before. Howbeit they gaue eare vnto the relation of certaine that sayd, that this nauie was prouided to conduct and waite ouer the Indian fleets: which seemed the moze probable because the Spaniards were deemed not to be men of so small discretion as to aduenture those huge and monstrous ships vpon the shallow and dangerous chanel of England.

At length when as the French king about the end of May signified vnto her Maestie in plaine termes that she should stand vpon her guard, because he was now most certainly enforced, that there was so dangerous an inuasion imminent vpon her realme, that he feared much least all her land and sea-forces would be sufficient to withstand it, &c. then began the Queenes Maestie moze carefully to gather her forces together, & to furnish her own ships of warre, & the principall ships of her subiects with soldiers, weapons, and other necessary prouision. The greatest and strongest ships of the whole nauy she sent vnto Pimmouth vnder the conduct of the right honorable Lord Charles Howard, lord high Admirall of England, &c. Under whom the renowned Knight Sir Francis Drake was appointed Vice-admirall. The number of these ships was about an hundredth. The lesser ships being 30. or 40. in number, and vnder the conduct of the lord Henry Seimer were commanded to lie betwixt Dover and Calais.

On land like wise throughout the whole realme, soldiers were mustered and trained in all places, and were committed vnto the most resolute and faithfull captaines. And whereas it was commonly giuen out that the Spaniard having once united himselfe vnto the duke of Parma, meant to inuade by the riuer of Thames, there was at Tilburie in Essex ouer-against Grauesend, a mightie army encamped, and on both sides of the riuer fortifications were erected, according to the prescription of Frederike Genebelli an Italian enginier. Likewise there were certaine ships brought to make a bridge, though it were very late first. Vnto the said army came in proper manner the Queenes most roiall Maestie, representing Tomyris that Sceptian warlike princeesse, or rather diuine Pallas her selfe. Also there were other such armies leuied in England. The principall catholique recusants (least they should stirre by any tumult in the time of the Spanish inuasion) were sent to remaine at certaine convenient places, as namely in the Isle of Ely

A treatie of peace, to the end that England and the united prouinces might be secure of invasion.

Her maiesties warlike preparation by sea.

Her Maesties land-forces.