

lishment, independently of its costliness, found little favor with the honest Castilian ; and the cortes prayed his majesty to abandon it, and to return to the more simple and natural usage of his ancestors. They represented "the pernicious effects which this manner of living necessarily had on the great nobles and others of his subjects, prone to follow the example of their master."⁵² To one of these petitions Philip replied that "he would cause the matter to be inquired into, and such measures to be taken as were most for his service." No alteration took place during his reign ; and the Burgundian establishment, which in 1562 involved an annual charge of a hundred and fifty-six millions of maravedis, was continued by his successor.⁵³

Another remonstrance of constant recurrence—a proof of its inefficacy—was that against the alienation of the crown lands and the sale of offices and the lesser titles of nobility. To this the king made answer in much the same equivocal language as before. Another petition besought him no longer to seek an increase of his revenue by imposing taxes without the sanction of the cortes required by the ancient law and usage of the realm. Philip's reply on this occasion was plain enough. It was, in truth, one worthy of an Eastern despot. "The necessities," he said, "which have compelled me to resort to these measures, far from having ceased, have increased, and are still increasing, allowing me no alternative but to pursue the course I have adopted."⁵⁴ Philip's embarrassments

⁵² Cortes of Toledo of 1559, pet. 3.

⁵³ Lafuente, *Historia de España*, tom. xiii. p. 118.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, tom. xiv. p. 397.