

land, six hundred, and eighteen, and addressed to king James.

“ I find, likewise, in the manner of proceeding, that
 “ treating by way of proposition here, nothing can be
 “ expected but their wonted dilatory, and evasive an-
 “ swers, their manner being to refer such propositions
 “ from the States-General, to the states of Holland.
 “ The states of Holland take advice of a certain coun-
 “ cil, residing at Delft, which they call the council
 “ of the fishery, and from them, such an answer
 “ commonly comes as may be expected from such an
 “ oracle. The way, therefore, (under correction,)
 “ to effect your majesty’s intent, is to begin with the
 “ fishers, by publishing, against the time of their
 “ going out, your resolution at what distance you will
 “ permit them to fish, whereby they will be forced to
 “ have recourse to their council of fishery, that coun-
 “ cil to the states of Holland, and those of Holland,
 “ to the States-General, who then, in place of being
 “ fought unto, will, for contentment of their subjects,
 “ seek unto your majesty.”

A naval writer hath remarked (e) that these letters render it perfectly clear that James asserted his right, throughout the long course of this negociation, as clearly and as explicitly as it was possible; and that he brought the states themselves to an acknowledgement that these privileges had a just foundation. If it should be asked why, after matters had apparently been carried to such violent extremities, they sunk at once into oblivion, the most rational answer that can be given is that in the midst of the dispute, the prince
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(e) Campbell’s Lives of the Admirals, V. 2. p. 28.