1591. VOL. CCXXXIX.

3rd. Pretended to Don Bernardino, Don Christoforo, and the King even, that Dr. Lopez had gained him liberty in spite of Don Antonio, and had afterwards attended him in a feigned illness, and been gained over to King Philip's service. By advice of Walsingham, Lopez gave him instructions how to conduct himself on his return, to gain credit; was suspected at first, but on the return of Francisco de Ruego, who had engaged to kill Don Antonio, but had been seized in Brittany, the Lords began to think of employing the writer to kill him, coming to England on pretext of making peace, and offering great rewards to Dr. Lopez if he would assist.

4th. A letter of recommendation from Don Bernardino, assuring the King of Spain of the writer's loyalty and ability to do signal service, on account of his knowledge of the country, of Don Antonio's affairs, and of several languages. Thus obtained the command about the peace and about killing King Antonio, and told the King at once, by his companion, Roderigo Marques, now in London.

Has four reasons for esteeming so little King Philip's offer of reward,—

1st. Conscience, which obliges him to prefer King and country to all the honours in the world.

2nd. His word and oath to Walsingham and Lopez, to gain all possible information for Her Majesty's service, having leave to say what he pleased, in order to gain credit with King Philip and his Council.

3rd. His desire to see his country free from Spanish tyranny, for which he has left wife, children, and goods, 12 years.

4th. Desire of revenging on King Philip many of his relations, unjustly put to death, for taking the part of their natural King, Don Antonio.

Has been ever influenced by the glory of God, service of the Queen, good of his country, and honour, and not by avarice. Concealed Don Manuel and Don Christoforo, sons of Don Antonio, in his house in Portugal, and would have freed his daughter, Donna Louisa, but just as she was about to leave Oporto, King Philip sent for her to Spain, where she has remained since. Also, to keep his word as a gentleman, though pardoned by King Philip, and enabled to enjoy his wife, children, and property, yet considering his services here advantageous to the glory of God, service of the Queen, and good of his country, returned hither. [*French.* 4½ *pages.*]

Aug. 20. London. 153. John Ricroft to Sir Rob. Cecil. Thanks for his honourable regard. If he had any true guess how far the matter had been expostulated with Moody, could tell what to draw from Owen, who will be very eager to harken after it. Has no desire to make trial, and the 100*l.* promised will not draw him thither, unless his service is respected; purposes, unless thought fit for other employment, to go to France to my Lord of Essex, and if Cecil could give him a packet of letters thither, should account himself more fastly bound to him.