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Fiascone that he was sent on commission to view the ships at Ferrol, 36 strong and warlike ships, able to deal with the whole English navy; he spoke of other new ships preparing in Biscay and the Straits, over which the General should be the Admiral of the galleys; knows most of him by a letter of Jan. 1592, from Parsons, in Spain, wherein he wrote that the King had at last yielded to follow his advice concerning the first attempt to be made against England, which nothing could change except very ill success in Brittany; there they hoped to get Brest before the time determined, whence he would have 16 great ships with 10,000 men ready in April next, and meant to invade England upon that part nearest to Ireland, and near Stanley's own country, where a great personage would be ready to help and take part with him, whose name was set down by the figure 19 [*Earl of Derby*], and [*Lord Strange*] a young one, who he hoped would be ready to assist, by that of 14. Upon Stanley's success in landing, the whole of the Spanish fleet was to be ready to assault on the other side.

Creighton, a Jesuit, was to be sent into Scotland, to deal with the noblemen there, that some harbour might be granted, if their ships came thither and some men be in readiness, as though for their own defence, but in truth to come to Stanley's aid. Parsons is to be with the fleet, for its better direction, and Allen to be secretly sent into the Low Countries, but not to England until they see the event. This is all he knows, and were he pulled asunder with wild horses, could say no more. Craves pardon and favour for having had anything to do with persons contrary to this State; promises as amends to give up some of the parties, who have lately come from France, as also some seminaries and Jesuits, of whom he knows a great many, and could quickly learn their abodes; is ready to perform any service, though with danger of life. Hopes pardon for the errors of young men led amiss by the wrong counsel of others. Endorsed, "26 Aug. 1592. The confession of Thos. Christopher, prisoner, *alias* Dingley." [2½ *pages.*]

Aug. 26. 117. The Queen to Mr. Bodley. Since her last letters for sending away 16 bands of foot to France, to make up 4,000 foot in Brittany, has thought it necessary to have at least one band of 100 horse also sent thither to succour the footmen, either Sir John Pooley's or Sir Nich. Parker's. Knows not how their bands are furnished, but thinks they can allege no reasonable cause of want; Bodley is to send for them, and inform them of Her Majesty's pleasure, and if it should happen that neither is able to furnish the entire number, the captain that shall not go is to deliver to the other as many of his band, furnished with horse and arms, as will make up the 100; if either refuse or delay this service, the party refusing will for ever be put out of her wages, and will incur her further displeasure. In the election of one of these two officers, he is to use the opinion and advice of Sir Francis Vere, if he can do so without delay. [*Draft, corrected by Burghley.* 1¾ *pages.*]

Aug. 26. 118. Copy of the above. [1¼ *pages.*]