

VOL. CXCIX.

1587.

March?

95. Statement of the reasons why Mr. William Huntley [Dr. Gifford] cannot presently repair into England, as it might offend Dr. Allen, who had ordered him to stay at Rheims. His desire to meet and confer with Jaques Colerdin [Gilbert Gifford], at Rouen, according to Mr. Secretary's direction. Aliases to be adopted by certain priests, viz. Edw. Gratley to be called *John Foxley*; Gilbert Gifford, *Jaques Colerdin*; Dr. Gifford, *William Huntley*; and Mr. Aldred, *John Eggerton*.

March?

96. Tho. Phelippes to 4 [Gilbert Gifford]. His remove from Paris and uncertainty of return has been the cause of interruption. Acknowledges letters, one of which he could not read, for that either the paper was "alloyme" [alummy] or that he had negligently blotted it. He misses many letters of importance. The Queen and Sec. Walsyngham are assured of his loyal attention and have promised him a pension of 100*l.* a year. Frequent intelligence is expected from him, as upon the late accident of the Queen of Scots' death, arrival of disaffected persons from England or Scotland, &c. Notes of information; intention to kill the Queen or the Earl of Leicester. [*Many notices of Gilbert Gifford's secret employment in France at this period, and in the following year, will be found in the French Correspondence.*]

VOL. CC. APRIL, 1587.

1587.

April 1.

The
Dreadnaught.

1. Capt. Thos. Fenner to Walsyngham. Assembly of the whole fleet at Plymouth under Sir Fr. Drake, well victualled. The general does all he can to hasten the service, and sticketh at no charge to further the same, and layeth out great store of money to soldiers and mariners, to stir up their minds. Names of all the ships now in Plymouth Sound, in number twenty-three.

April 2.

On board the
Elizabeth
Bonaventure.

2. Sir Fr. Drake to Walsyngham. They had been joined by some other ships of the London fleet. There never was in any fleet more likelihood of a loving agreement. The captains appointed to serve with him are discreet, honest, and most sufficient gentlemen. Some men have deserted within the last two days. Desires his good opinion through all reports, not only of himself, but of all joined with him in this action. Hopes the enemy will have cause to say that God doth fight for Her Majesty as well abroad as at home.

April 2.

3. Hugh Offley to same. Has received his letter to him and Mr. John Bodleigh. Desires further time to consider with the clothiers of a good place for the venting of their goods. Names of merchants to be consulted.

April 5.

Wrest.

4. Henry Earl of Kent to the Council. Proceedings in his commission of lieutenancy for Bedfordshire. Names of the gentlemen