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1588.

Aug. 25. St. James's. 50. The Council to the Earl of Leicester, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. Her Majesty is much pleased with the care taken by him and his deputy lieutenants in training the forces of the shire. Desire them to inquire what sums of money had been collected in the county for armour, conduct money, &c., and how applied; and if the captains had taken money for the release of trained soldiers. Also as to the payment of the soldiers from the time of their arrival at the camp at Tilbury.

Aug. 25. 51. Estimate of the charges for finishing the two forts at Tilbury and Gravesend; with provisions to be made for the same.

Aug. 25. 52. Estimate of the charge of repairing the platform of one part of the Blockhouse at Gravesend; being utterly decayed and taken down.

Aug. 25. St. James's. 53. The Council to the Lord Lieutenants of divers shires, thanking them for their great care in these public services committed to their charge. To inquire as to the sums collected for armour, coat, and conduct money, and its expenditure. Other points, as in the letter to Leicester.

Aug. 25. 54. Lord Adm. Howard to Walsyngham. Sends up to him two Scotchmen, one who had come out of France, and the other having served in the Duke of Parma's camp, from whom he might learn many things of importance. Has sent a good many ancients [ensigns] and banners by the bearer Thos. Cely. [*These "ancients and banners" were no doubt those displayed at St. Paul's Cross on the 8th of September at a sermon of thanksgiving there: "There was "then openly shewed eleven ensigns, being the banners taken in "the Spanish navy; and particularly one streamer wherein was "an image of our Lady, with her son in her arms; which was "held in a man's hand over the pulpit. The same banners the "next day were hanged on London Bridge towards Southwark." Nichols' Progresses, Eliz., Vol. II., p. 537.*]

Aug. 26. The Arke. 55. Same to same. The beer brewed at Sandwich was sour; belike there was some great fault in the brewer. The mariners think it was one great cause of the infection. Nothing displeaseth them more than to have sour beer. They have not been able to take in their victuals on account of the roughness of the sea. The fleet ought to be divided into two parts, and so to serve alternately; and not to be reduced till after Michaelmas. It grieves him wonderfully to hear of the chamberlain's sickness. *Incloses,*

55. I. *List of ships in two divisions: in Howard's hand. Probably the inclosure mentioned.*

Aug. 26. Dover Road. 56. Sir John Hawkyns to Lord Burghley. Report as to the number of men remaining in the ships now at sea. The fleet has remained divided on account of the roughness of the weather. Many of the western and coast ships have been discharged. 19,000*l.* is required to pay the men to the 28th of July. Postscript by Lord