1591 ?

the living apperatining to it, for if the enemy possessed the castle, they would have that also; though it is of no great value, it is his whole commonwealth, and would be the overthrow of his posterity, who depend upon it. Does not desire to receive the money, but it may be left in such hands as they think fit; if the sum demanded do not finish the fortifications, has 200*l.* as rents of assize in Her Majesty's hands, which will be a sufficient pawn for finishing them as offered. The parishes adjoining the castle may send 400 fighting men into the castle in less than three hours, which is as soon as any might be landed.

114. Petition of John Ramridge and Thos. Stepney, on behalf of the merchants, owners, captains, and others of the Swallow of London, to Lord Treasurer Burghley, for a share in the prize ship Holy Ghost, belonging to the King of Spain, taken by them after a long fight, in September last; but when they had boarded her, the Repentance came up, and her men also entered the prize, and therefore in the disposal of it, the petitioners, whose ship bore the brunt of the danger, are not named, and already 2,000*l.* worth of goods are embezzled. Endorsed, "The suit between the Dainty and the Swallow;" also with an abstract of the petition.

115. Petition of many poor inhabitants of Colchester, to the Queen. Complain of the great numbers of Dutchmen and foreigners settled in their town during the last 16 years, whereby they are deprived of sustenance for themselves, their wives, and children, provisions being so dear; also complain of the inclosure of a heath, of 800 acres, by the townsmen of Colchester, by which they, the poor, are utterly spoiled. It is said to be done by leave of Sir Thos. Heneage; do not think good Sir Thomas would give such a leave. Pray for vengeance on them. Beg redress from the Queen, as mother of her subjects. [*Numerously signed. The Dutch strangers settled in Colchester early in* 1575.]

116. [Sir John Conway and Anth. Bourne to Lord Burghley?] Have accomplished his commands in delivering 500*l.* to Mr. Staveley, and are ready to give assurance for the other 500*l.*, if the Queen's grant may pass speedily. Hope then to be free from all further demands.

Monday. Chester.

117. John Johnes to John Daniell. Has told Mr. Dutton that he has Mr. Vice-Chamberlain's pleasure to him in writing. He wished to keep the warrant. The proclamation is gone forth against him [Daniell]. Wants to consult with him on some course to stay these proceedings.

118. Nicholas Brewer to ———. Thanks him for influence in his behalf with the Earl, who promises the office if the writer be capable of it; it is that of Assay Master of the Mint. Endorsed in Italian, "Antonio Pere supplicates it of your Highness." [*Latin.*]

119. Sir R. Cecil to Thos. Phelippes. Thanks him for his offer to employ himself in Her Majesty's service. Knows his good will, but