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1593.

will be by Act of Parliament, allowing only so reasonable a portion for the draining as that the remainder, being drained, will double or treble the former benefits to the owners and commoners. His Lordship, by favouring of it during the present Parliament, may eternize his renown, and increase his revenue 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* a year. If neither he nor Her Majesty will entertain it, will bring the names of certain gentlemen of wealth who are willing to perform it, upon reasonable conditions. [$1\frac{1}{2}$ pages.]

March 30.

April 9.
Dieppe.

98. ——— to Robinson. Thanks him for his diligent and faithful and speedy correspondence; will make his ability known, that he may be general factor with persons in those parts, or at least with some of the principals, as the Cardinal and Father Parsons.

Although the King of France assembles all the forces he can, it is thought he will not be able to match the army of the Union, except he leave his towns naked, which is so dangerous, that he will not hold the field long without a revolt in many of them. The English, since their arrival, have spoiled all the country about St. Valery, the town itself being neuter, and hanged Langden, an English priest; and have passed through the country near Rouen, towards the Isle of France to St. Denis, to join Biron, who marches that way with 4,000 or 5,000 soldiers. The English were 1,100 to 1,200, to whom 400 French were joined, from Dieppe and other places. It appears, by certain intercepted letters of the King, that they should have been 2,000, viz., 1,500 pikes and the rest shot, and that he had given order to the Governor of Dieppe to receive as many, and send them to the Isle of France.

On Friday, 2 April, the Duke of Feria was very honourably received into the States at Paris, where he made an oration in Latin, declaring the King's desire to concur with them to the uttermost, to the establishment of their Estate, which could not be wrought but by election of a King; to that end he offers, if they will choose such a King as he likes for his integrity in religion, &c., to bestow his daughter upon him in marriage, give them present and sufficient succour, and employ all his forces to settle that Estate. This gives great courage and hope to those of the Union at Paris and other places; no judgment can be given as to the conclusion; if the writer is deceived, the King of Spain and all his are the same. Count Soissons and the Cardinal of Bourbon will surely be excluded; it has been so agreed in Italy, Spain, and Paris, and much more, the King of Navarre.

The States [of France] have yet concluded nothing but the reformation of the Church, to which purpose they have agreed to receive the Council of Trent. They expect the return of the Duc de Mayenne, who is yet with the army, which they take to consist of 15,000 or 16,000 men, consisting of the Pope's forces and Flanders and French soldiers. The preparations in Spain against England are but a rumour, given out to draw the subsidy. Has seen letters concerning the broils in Scotland, but not the fleeing of the Lords. Has an account of the reception of the King of Spain