

## VOL. CCLXXXVII.

1603.  
March 9.  
London.

49. H. [Hen. Garnet] to Thos. Lancaster. I have ordered the young men 40s. for their necessities; they have had physic, and will go to their country. I cannot reckon for the testaments yet, as they came unbound to my factor, but will take in exchange the blue books sent; though given to be disposed of gratis, I have got what I could for their use. The last valiant champion, Wm. Richardson of Seville has left behind him the memory of a glorious triumph, which does great good. The Queen is said to be very sick. Arabella is diversely reported of, and is like to be sent up for shortly, to be guarded. The factor will deliver 50*l.* to your agent. [ $\frac{3}{4}$  page.]

March 9.  
London.

50. Ant. Rivers to Giacomo Creleto, Venice. Business matters. The pictures mentioned were in oil colours, representations of the kings, queens, councillors, and worthies of this island, and a good bargain. The long intended shipping is ready for the coast of Spain; eight of the Queen's ships, two pinnaces, five volunteer merchant ships, and ten men-of-war hourly expected from Holland, victualled for four months; Sir Rich. Leveson, Admiral, Sir Wm. Mounson, vice-admiral. They want to intercept the fleet from Lisbon to the East Indies, and they hover about the coast while their victuals last.

The Countess of Nottingham is dead, and her husband, the Admiral, keeps his chamber, mourning in sad earnest. "The Queen loved the Countess well, and hath much lamented her death, remaining ever since in a deep melancholy that she must die herself, and complaineth much of many infirmities wherewith she seemeth suddenly to be overtaken; as imposthuration in her head, aches in her bones, and continual cold in her legs, besides a notable decay of judgment and memory, insomuch as she cannot abide discourses of government and state, but delighteth to hear old Canterbury tales, to which she is very attentive; at other times impatient and testy, so as none of the Council, but Secretary, dare come in her presence. All are in a dump at Court; some fear present danger, others doubt she will not continue past the month of May, but generally all are of opinion that she cannot overpass another winter."

The succession is much talked of; the far greater part of the realm are for the King of Scots; but many would oppose him, had they any potent competitor. There is continual posting between London and Scotland. The Queen gave that King 2,000*l.* at Christmas, and has since augmented his pension 2,000*l.* a year. He is diligent to have all in readiness, has received his forces, and can bring 14,000 horse into the field. Lord Burghley, President of the North, is sent thither to appoint new captains over the trained bands, and all this to withstand the Scot; "but so subtle is the Secretary that hardly can it be judged which way he will take, and he as yet ruleth all. Certain we are that his inward mind is averted that way [*from the Scot*], and it is as certain that he is altogether opposite to the Spaniards, and now also in no very good terms with the French King, upon a jealous conceit that he also is tampering for the establishing this crown upon himself or some of his."