

1603.

Lady Arabella is under guard ; some say married to the Earl of Hertford's grandchild, which is most false ; some that she is mad, and has written to the Queen that she is contracted to some one near and in favour with Her Majesty, and will name him if he may be pardoned. Mr. Secretary, Lord Montjoy, and Fulke Greville are guessed at. Lord Brouncker is sent to bring her to Woodstock, where she is to be kept, meanwhile the Secretary has often secret meetings with the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, after which they dispatch messengers and packets of letters.

It is said that the Council will have 30,000 qrs. of wheat laid up in London storehouses ; the ditches cleansed, and enlarged 2 feet, and a ditch and trench made to defend the suburbs by the north of London, from the Tower to Westminster, to be done in 14 days. The Lord Treasurer and Sir John Fortescue have written to the Queen that her coffers are empty, and they want moneys for Ireland, &c. She rages thereat exceedingly, so that neither of them dares come to Court, and it is thought to augment her infirmities.

In Ireland Tyrone and the rebels make head with 3,000 followers, and have cut off one or two garrison companies. The country is so discontent with the base money and other miseries, that the Deputy advises Tyrone's pardon, on submission. The Secretary obtained this, but with great difficulty, the Queen "pretending it most dishonourable to pardon a rebel that had made seven years' war with her, whereas she would not be permitted to spare Essex for one day's delict ; and upon this when she reflects, she falleth into great passion, and this also is thought one cause of her sickness." Mr. Secretary has written to the Deputy to pardon Tyrone on any condition, as there must be surcease of arms in Ireland or peace with Spain, which he cannot endure, and he is thought to be engaged to the States of the Low Countries to continue hostility with Spain.

Winwood, who was secretary to Sir Hen. Umpton, in France, and since agent there, is sent agent to Holland. M. Caron wants 7,000 men in spring to aid the States ; 3,000 [volunteers] will be granted if they will wage them, being assisted by our officers to take up idle men. He wants some for defence of Ostend, the country people of Holland and Zealand being weary of the service ; the Queen wants the States to lay a plot to remove the Archduke's siege, and then she will concur largely with men and money ; otherwise she will lend no more, nor forbear what is due to her. The sea works still upon them in Ostend, the soldiers die by the incommodity of the place, and the tower is likely to be lost.

Our ships that went last year to consort with some Hollanders to the East Indies are thought to have perished by fire. Capts. Newport and Button and other men-of-war have taken two or three frigates from the West Indies, with three millions of gold, and are in Milford haven, or at some port in Ireland or in Barbary ; however to please the Queen, she is made to believe it is in a harbour in Wales. The Venetian agent seems to deal about nothing but