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depredations, only he wants a Venetian lieger to reside here, which we approve not, fearing to entertain a Spanish spy.

The city of Geneva has sent to beg 20,000*l.*, offering to raise forces to stop the passages, so that no Italian forces can pass to the Archduke; and also to annoy the Duke of Savoy. It is thought the clergy here will be forced to contribute largely to their defence.

The French lieger Ambassador begins to be peremptory that his King will no longer endure to have his subjects' shipping viewed by the Queen's ships; we should be glad to be rid of him, and a spy is set over his actions. Sir Thos. Parry, our ambassador in France, complains of inability to follow the King in a voyage to Lorraine, to settle a controversy between the Cardinal and another for the bishopric of Strasburg, for want of his allowance. The City of London presses hard for payment of 60,000*l.* lent to the Queen. Mr. Attorney has found a quirk in the conveyance of their charter land, whereby if other accidents withhold not from offending the city, it will be forced to release that, and contribute further [for a new patent]. Our appellant priests follow the Bishop of London as heretofore; little respect had of the Pope's brief; all care taken to flatter the State; they have exhibited a memorial of allegiance. The three solicitors are still in the Clink, [and old Blue with the Bishop], but with leave to go abroad without a keeper [if they return at night]. It is thought they and their crew will be banished, being only favoured by the State to nourish faction and disunion.

Wm. Richardson, a priest of Seville College, was discovered to the Chief Justice by one whom he trusted, arraigned and condemned at Newgate for being a priest and coming to England, and executed at Tyburn. He answered stoutly, yet with great modesty and discretion, moving many to compassionate him, and speak against the Chief Justice, on whom he laid the guilt of his blood. "Such spectacles do nothing increase the Gospel; all the rest of the Council seem to plead ignorance of the fact; he was less favoured for not favouring the faction. His head and quarters were buried."

My cousin and Ortelio have a secret about intercepting letters; I am very barren of good intelligence. We think now the Spaniard will not attempt Ireland, but desires peace, only helping the Archduke to men and money against the King. I suppose last year's designs for Algiers have disabled him from any matter of import. I have found a bezar stone of much use in curing a cold; pray send me one. The plague begins in the suburbs.

The day after the priest was executed, a Puritan who had been censured in the Star Chamber for libelling the Lords was conveyed on a horse to Cheapside with his face backward, set on the pillory, and had one of his ears cut off, and would have had the other at Oxford, but the Countess of Oxford took the part of a zealous sister, and got the Queen to pardon it and remit the fine. [3½ pages. *The passages in brackets are supplied from the subsequent letter.*]

March 9.
London.

51. Ant. Rivers to Ridolfo Nercico, Venice. Transmission of letters. News of intelligence nearly the same as in the preceding, with a few additions. Sir Rob. Mansfield is Vice-Admiral of the