

be guided by example, or swayed by authority; but having been taught to examine and to decide in matters of controversy, thought that they were both qualified and entitled to judge for themselves. As soon as the contents of the Interim were known, they, with one voice, joined in refusing to admit it. Augsburg, Ulm, Straßburg, Constance, Bremen, Magdeburg, together with many other towns of less note, presented remonstrances to the Emperor, setting forth the irregular and unconstitutional manner in which the Interim had been enacted, and beseeching him not to offer such violence to their consciences, as to require their assent to a form of doctrine and worship, which appeared to them repugnant to the express precepts of the divine law. But Charles, having prevailed on so many Princes of the Empire to approve of his new model, was not much moved by the representations of those cities, which, how formidable soever they might have proved, if they could have been formed into one body, lay so remote from each other, that it was easy to oppress them separately, before it was possible for them to unite.

IN order to accomplish this, the Emperor saw it to be requisite that his measures should be vigorous, and executed with such rapidity as to allow no time for concerting any common plan of opposition. Having laid down this maxim

Compelled
by violence
to submit.

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1548.

Aug. 3.

as the rule of his proceedings, his first attempt was upon the city of Augsburg, which, though overawed by the presence of the Spanish troops, he knew to be as much dissatisfied with the Interim as any in the Empire. He ordered one body of these troops to seize the gates; he posted the rest in different quarters of the city; and assembling all the burgeses in the town, he, by his sole absolute authority, published a decree abolishing their present form of government, dissolving all their corporations and fraternities, and nominating a small number of persons, in whom he vested for the future the right of administration. Each of the persons, thus chosen, took an oath to observe the Interim. An act of power, so unprecedented as well as arbitrary, which excluded the body of the inhabitants from any share in the government of their own community, and subjected them to men who had no other merit than their servile devotion to the Emperor's will, gave general disgust; but as they durst not venture upon resistance, they were obliged to submit in silence^e. From Augsburg, in which he left a garrison, he proceeded to Ulm, and new modelling its government with the same violent hand, he seized such of their pastors as refused to subscribe the Interim, committed them to prison, and at his departure car-

^e Sleid. 469.

ried them along with him in chains^f. By this severity he not only secured the reception of the Interim in two of the most powerful cities, but gave warning to the rest what such as continued refractory had to expect. The effect of the example was as great as he could have wished, and many towns, in order to save themselves from the like vengeance, found it necessary to comply with what he enjoined. This obedience, extorted by the rigour of authority, produced no change in the sentiments of the Germans, and extended no farther than to make them conform so far to the letter of the law, as was barely sufficient to screen them from punishment. Their preachers accompanied those ceremonies, the observation of which the Interim prescribed, with such an explication of their tendency, as served rather to confirm than to remove the scruples of their hearers with regard to them. The people, many of whom had grown up to mature years since the establishment of the reformed religion, and had been accustomed to no other form of publick worship, beheld the pompous pageantry of the popish service with contempt or horror; and in most places the Romish ecclesiasticks, who returned to take possession of their churches, could hardly be protected from insult, or their ministrations from interruption. Thus, notwithstanding the

^f Sleid. 472.

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apparent compliance of so many cities, the inhabitants being accustomed to freedom, submitted with reluctance to the power which now oppressed them. Their understanding as well as inclination revolted against the doctrines and rites imposed on them; and though, for the present, they concealed their indignation and resentment, it was evident that these passions could not always be kept under restraint, but would break out at last in effects proportional to their violence *.

The Pope dismisses the Council assembled at Bologna.

CHARLES, meanwhile, highly pleased with having bended the stubborn spirit of the Germans to such general submission, departed for the Low-Countries, fully determined to compel the cities, which still stood out, to receive the Interim. He carried his two prisoners the Elector of Saxony and Landgrave of Hesse along with him, either because he durst not leave them behind him in Germany, or because he wished to give his countrymen the Flemings this illustrious proof of the success of his arms, and the extent of his power. Before Charles arrived at Brussels he was informed that the Pope's legates at Bologna had dismissed the council by an indefinite prorogation, and that the prelates assembled there had returned to their respective

Sept. 27.

* Mem. de Ribier, ii. 218. Sleid. 491.

countries. Necessity had driven the Pope into this measure. By the secession of those who had voted against the translation, together with the departure of others, who grew weary of continuing in a place where they were not suffered to proceed to business, so few and such inconsiderable members remained, that the pompous appellation of a General Council could not, with decency, be bestowed any longer upon them. Paul had no choice but to dissolve an assembly which was become the object of contempt, and exhibited to all Christendom a most glaring proof of the impotence of the Romish See. But unavoidable as the measure was, it lay open to be unfavourably interpreted, and had the appearance of withdrawing the remedy at the very time when those for whose recovery it was provided, were prevailed on to acknowledge its virtue, and to make trial of its efficacy. Charles did not fail to put this construction on his conduct; and by an artful comparison of his own efforts to suppress heresy, with Paul's scandalous inattention to a point so essential, he endeavoured to render the Pontiff odious to all zealous Catholics. At the same time, he commanded the Prelates of his faction to remain at Trent, that the Council might still appear to have a being, and might be ready, whenever it

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The Emperor receives his son Philip in the Low-Countries.

was thought expedient, to resume its deliberations for the good of the church ^h.

THE motive of Charles's journey to the Low-Countries, beside gratifying his favourite passion of travelling from one part of his dominions to another, was to receive Philip his only son, who was now in the twenty-first year of his age, and whom he had called thither, not only that he might be recognized by the States of the Netherlands as heir-apparent, but in order to facilitate the execution of a vast scheme, the object of which, and the reception it met with, shall be hereafter explained. Philip, having left the government of Spain to Maximilian, Ferdinand's eldest son, to whom the Emperor had given the Princess Mary his daughter in marriage, embarked for Italy, attended by a numerous retinue of Spanish nobles ^l. The squadron which escorted him, was commanded by Andrew Doria, who, notwithstanding his advanced age, insisted on the honour of performing, in person, the same duty to the son, which he had often discharged towards the father. He landed safely at Genoa; from thence he went to Milan, and proceeding through Germany, arrived at the Imperial court in Brussels. The States of Brabant, in the first place,

Nov. 25.

1549.
April 1.^h Pallav. p. 11. 72.^l Ochoa, Carolea, 362.

and

and those of the other provinces in their order, acknowledge his right of succession in common form, and he took the customary oath to preserve all their privileges inviolate^k. In all the towns of the Low Countries through which Philip passed, he was received with extraordinary pomp. Nothing that could express the respect of the people, or contribute to his amusement was neglected; pageants, tournaments, and publick spectacles of every kind were exhibited with that expensive magnificence which commercial nations display, when, on any occasion, they depart from their usual maxims of frugality. But amidst these scenes of festivity and pleasure, Philip's natural severity of temper was discernible. Youth itself could not render him agreeable, nor his being a candidate for power form him to courtesy. He maintained a haughty reserve in his behaviour, and discovered such manifest partiality towards his Spanish attendants, together with such an avowed preference to the manners of their country, as highly disgusted the Flemings, and gave rise to that antipathy, which afterwards occasioned the revolution so fatal to him in that part of his dominions^l.

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^k Haræi annal. Brabant. 652.

^l Mem. de Ribier, ii. 29. L'Evesque Mem. de Card. Granvelle, i. 21.

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CHARLES was long detained in the Netherlands by a violent attack of the gout, which returned upon him so frequently, and with such increasing violence, that it had broken to a great degree the vigour of his constitution. He, nevertheless, did not slacken his endeavours to enforce the Interim. The inhabitants of Strasbourg, after a long struggle, found it necessary to give obedience; those of Constance, who had taken arms in their own defence, were compelled by force not only to conform to the Interim, but to renounce their privileges as a free city, to do homage to Ferdinand as Archduke of Austria, and, as his vassals, to admit an Austrian governor and garrison^m. Magdeburg, Bremen, Hamburg, and Lubeck were the only Imperial cities of note that still continued refractory.

^m Sleid. 474. 491.

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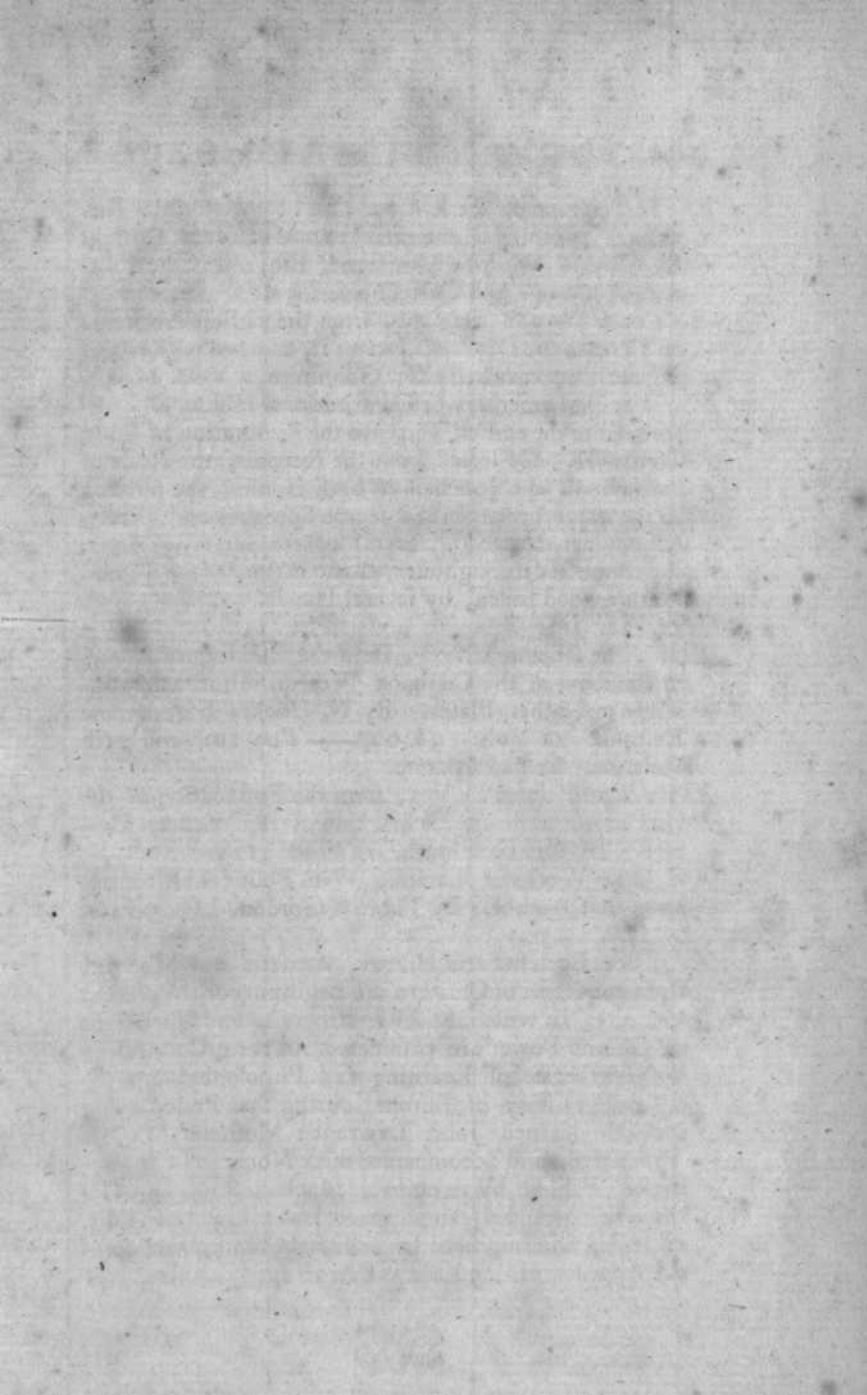
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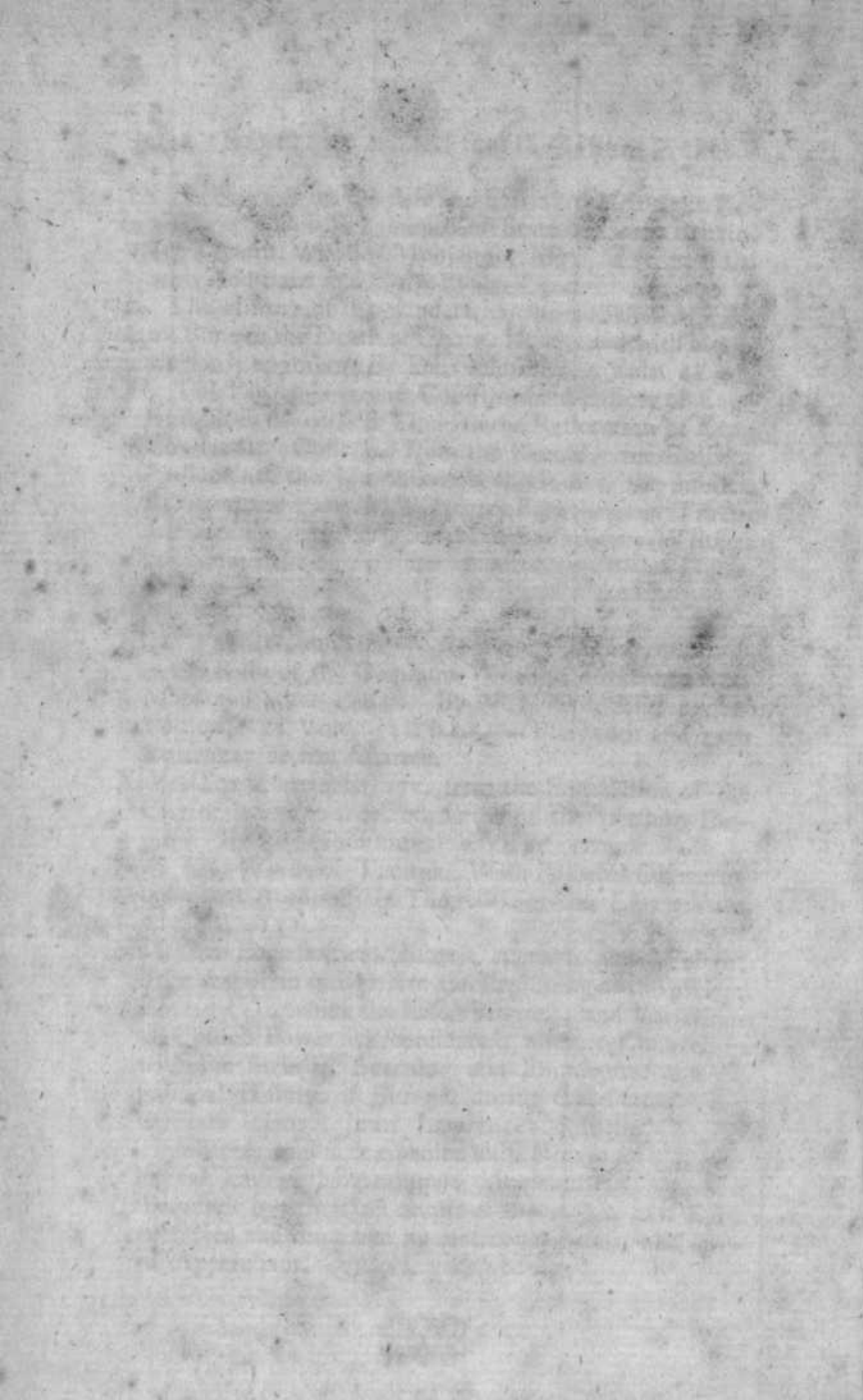
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