

to Paris, with an impression that he might be lured to obey the king's will, he continued his preparations for defence, and brought over most of the great towns to his party, though the nobles of the province manifested a resentment of his conduct which he was not likely to overcome. He procured a promise of aid from the young king of Navarre, engaging to assist him in recovering the family possessions in Normandy, which France had conquered from his father; and, distracted with factions as England at that time was, his representations there were deemed of such weight, that the earl of Arundel was sent, with 1000 men-at-arms and 3000 archers, to hover off the coast, and land whenever opportunity should be ripe for them.*

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The English were too early with this aid: it had the effect, not of determining the duke to resist the king of France's authority, but of confirming the French princes in their purpose of temporising with him, strengthening the opinion of those who dissuaded the king from marching against the duke of Guelderland, and drawing their attention to the coast. They took measures for the defence of Normandy; and Clisson, acting with his wonted decision, placed garrisons in St. Malo and St. Matthieu, in the king's name. These important places, on which the duke had counted, were thus secured against him; and his hope of co-operation from the king of Navarre was also frustrated, because that project had depended upon the support to be derived from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, then in Spain: but this could no longer be expected, because that ambitious prince was openly treating for the marriage of his daughter with the duke of Berry. Taking advantage of this, the French ruler sent sire de Coucy, the sire de la Riviere, and the admiral Jehan de Vienne to require restitution from the duke. Troubled at the report of their coming, and at the aspect of his affairs, he convoked his council, and they gave him such advice as

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* Froissart, iii, 109. Holinshed, ii, 796.

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was to be expected from upright men who condemned his conduct. The projected marriage of the duke of Berry was likely, in its immediate consequences, to lead to a peace with England, or at least a long truce. It was evident, by the choice of the ambassadors, that the king of France considered his business a weighty one; and the army which was then raising, as if for Guelderland, might be directed against him. What in that case could he do? His aid from Navarre must fail with the change in the duke of Lancaster's views. The English had enough to do at home, and could only serve him, when by so doing they could serve themselves: this he ought to know, for he had experienced it before, and had been bred among them. Moreover, the better part of the prelates, barons, knights, cities, and good towns of the country were, all against him in this matter. "We tell you," said they, "since you ask our advice, that it is more than ever time for you to bethink yourself, take means for preserving that inheritance which has cost you so much blood, and labour, and pain, and abate a little the edge of your hatred. We know that you hold messire Olivier de Clisson in great hatred, and that he has often grievously offended you, as you have him, albeit he is not your peer. But, seeing that the king of France and his uncles, and the barons of France, take up his cause, it is not our advice, nor would it be that of any man who loves you, that you should engage in war against the French. What, then, is to be done with those castles that you have taken from him? They will cost you more, even in peace, to keep them, in three years, than you could profit from them in twelve. If you restore them now, simply, and while it is known (for nothing can be done but what is known) that you do it amicably, and without constraint, you will overcome the angry will of many, and the duke of Burgundy will render you all the service he can, for the sake of madame de Burgundy, your good friend and cousin, their children being those who, at present, are nearest to you. Think well of it, therefore,

Proof corrected by Southey