is, nor wilbe any agreement twixt him & y^e Scotts. I finde that y^e onely man that invites y^e Prince to an agreement, and comeing home is Argille; what [h]is ends are I know not, Malignants say he would be y^e onely meane of bringing y^e Prince to his Throne, to prevent his punishment for compliance in y^e late King's death; more moderate men suppose it done out of ambition & ayme to be y^e King's onely creature. Argille professes much affection to the King, but withall, that rather then the King should doe anything in prejudice of y^e Religion (presently established) he rather would haue no King at all, but my opinion is, that he is much for a King vpon easier tearmes, if a King will come in his way, and acknowledge him y^e onely instrument. I haue a strong ground for this opinion wth from Ed^r I durst not write, but yo^a may please to recall to minde seuarall hints to that purpose in my former letters. When y^e late King was liueing (& as I take it at Newcastle) Argille wrote a letter to y^e Queene, intreating and aduising Her to deale with her husband, and to perswade Him to betake Himselfe wholly to Argille & his Counsell, & that he would vndertake for His Ma^{ty} safety & restoration. I was promised a sight of y^e copie of this letter, & of ye Queenes answer, but as yet haue not gott it, but y^e truth I question not. I finde that Argille is vseing y^e same way to perswade this King or rather more wayes. There is no question but that he hath at present greate intrest in, & correspondence wth the Queene mother & Councell of ffraunce. Montrevills brother y^e ffrench agent (who resides at Ed^r) is very often (I will not say dailly) with him & they (Queene & Councell of ffraunce) are very active in their perswasions to haue y^e King to agree wth y^e present state of Scotland. The Prince of Orange is of y^e same endeaue^r & opinion, as also Lauerdaille and y^e rest of Scotts Lords at the Hague wth whom likewise I finde that Argille has correspondence, and S^r James Montgomery I am confident hath his instructions of negotiation in this perticuler.

As for y^e raising of any more forces in Scotland, or preparation, I doe assure yo^a there is no other then wherewth yo^a are formerly acquainted; but if y^e King & they agree, they will be presently in Armes, for each shire (priuatly) knowes its officers, and proporcionable number of Soldiers. They wilbe able (wth much adoe) wth those already in armes to mount 6000 horse & 20,000 foote or more foote if they please. There is a much more fauorable construction in Ed^r of those called Independents, then of those they tearme Sectaries. There is noe correspondence as yet betwixt y^e Scotts & any party in England, I haue assurance of it. I haue not else at present, but to subscribe my selfe

Yo^r faithfull & most obedient Seruant.³

Carlisle 22nd Jan^y 1649.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH'S LETTERS AT THE HAGUE.

IN 1850 the diplomatic and military correspondence between Marlborough, the Grand Pensionary Heinsius, and James Hop, treasurer of the United Provinces, was published by G. G. Vreede. It is a volume containing 165 letters, and an appendix of twenty more, from 2 Jan. 1706 to 1 April 1707. There is now in the state

³ The signature has been heavily scored through, but the initials 'W. J.' are discernible, and the final letters of the surname look like 'ett.'

archives at the Hague a series of nearly 500 letters, written by Marlborough to Heinsius, with drafts of replies made to them, and one or two letters enclosed by the duke to the Grand Pensionary, 1701-1712. Having in last July made a list of all these letters and drafts, I transcribed the following by permission of the archivist, Jonkheer T. W. R. van Riemsdijk, to whose courtesy, having been introduced to him by H.B.M. Minister, I am much indebted.

W. BLISS.

I.

From the Duke.

Dec. 23^d 1701.

Sir,—If you have not had the enclosed letters from Sweden I thought they might be of use to you. Wee are in expectation of the post from Holland, which I hope will give an account of Mons^r Lillinroot's having received powers to Treat. I shall be employed to Treat with the Gentleman that is coming from the king of Polland, soe that I shou'd be glad to know what he has proposed to you, and what method you think advisable for mee to take with him.

I am with truth

S^r your most obedient humble servant

MARLBOROUGH.

II.

From the Duke.

Donavert July 4. 1704.

Sir,—I geue myself the honour of writting to the States yesterday to acquaint them with the victorie God was pleased to giue us on the second of this month ; as soon as the Elector had an account of itt he emedately dechamp'd from his strong camp of Dillingen and Lowengen, and is marched to the river Lech, which river his bagage had already passed, upon the preparation we had for the making two bridges over the Danube, [which] occasioned this garison to retier with such precipitation as is hardly to be belieued ; if they had stayed it must have cost us ten days time to have been masters of this town, but I think thay have been thorowly frightened with what thay saw us doe two days agoe ; the action was extreemly vigoros, and I hope will be aproud on by everybody, there being an absolut necessity of doing it. I hope every thing will be ready to morrow that we may pass the Danube, and then we shall be betwin the Elector and the reinforcement he expects from the Marishal de Villeroy, which was to pass the Rhine by Strasbourg the 2nd of this month. You may be sure that what is in my power shall not be wanting for the speedy reducing of the Elector, and I must doe P. Lewis the right, that he asures me he will doe whatever I shall think is good for the Common Cause ; if poor Goor had been alius he would haue been ouerjoyed at our being masters of this town, for his head was full of nothing else, belaving itt of more consequence than Ulm.

I have no time to copie my letter to the States.

I am with truth

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

MARLBOROUGH.

III.

From the Duke.

Landau, Nov. 13. 1704.

Sr,—I having no troupes left to command, and having near three hundred League to goe before I get to the Hague, I haue thought itt more for the Service to lose no time, then to stay here as Vollontier, where I can do very little good, so that I beginne my jorny to Berlin to-morrow. You will see by the date of the inclosed letter, which I received from Count Wratislough that I have deffered the taking that honour as long as I could til he shewed me a letter from their Minester in England, that the Queen had bid him assure the Emperor, that I should accept it; I send the origenal letter to Her Ma^y by this post, and I rely on your friendship to acquaint the States with itt, in the maner you think most proper, for I would not write to them of itt, unless you should think it necessary.

Your Minester knowing of my coming to Berlin I supose is from a letter I write to that King, in which I told him I expected Her Ma^y's commands to make him a proposall that might be for his Glory, as well as for the good of the Common Cause. I have by this post sent the States a copie of the Treaty concluded with the Elector of Bavaier, & hope it may have some effect on the Hungariens, for our last letters from Vienna seem to despair of an accomodation. I earnestly desire I may hear from you att Berlin.

I am with truth Sr

Your most obedient humble servant

MARLBOROUGH.

IV.

From Godolphin to [Marlborough].

Aug. 18. 1705.

Since you desire my thoughts upon y^e extract of a letter from the Pensionary which you were pleased to send mee I must beg the freedome to tell you if England had lost a battell at Sea, and another at land, I think they would still despise such a peace, and I belieue you may depend upon it, they will never consent to any peace that leaves Spain and the Indies, or either, in the hands of the duke of Anjou, nor will they bee pleased with the treaty of partition, should that bee not altogether so bad as this proposall, for this is just inverting the prohibition Treaty, and giving to the H. of Austria, Naples and Sicily, which the partition Treaty gave to France, and leaving Spain and the Indies to France, which that Treaty left in the possession of the house of Austria.

I am ever entirely y^rs

GODOLPHIN.

V.

From the Duke.

19. Aug. 1705.

(Postscript.) I wish I could be with you for one hour that I might talk freely to you as to what is proposed for the Preliminaries to the treating for a Peace.

I do before God declare to you that I am persuaded that if Slanenbourg had not been in the army, at this day we might have prescribed to France

what Peace we had pleased, but as the circumstances now are I agree with you that it will be very difficult to perswaid France to consent to such conditions as are absolutely necessarie to make the peace lasting. You know as well as I that England can like no peace but such as puts King Charles in the possession of the monarche of Spain, and as for your selves I think you ought to have Garnisons in Antwerp, Namur, and Luxembourg; besides I think the duke of Savoy should be our particular care, and if wee will have a lasting Peace, and the blessing of God, we must do something for the advantage of Protestants.

VI.

From the Duke.

11 Sept. 1709.

I am so tier'd that you will excuse my refering to the bearer for the relation of this Glorious day, he has a great deal of merit, and [saw] most part of the action; the French have defended themselves better in this action then in any battel I have seen, so that we have lost a great many men; but we have so beaten them that you may have what peace you please.

VII.

From the Duke to Heinsius.

London: 20 December, 1709.¹

For yourself onely

In publick I durst not be of any other opinion then what I write to L^d Townshend, but to you as a friend I will frankly own that I think it very unreasonable to presse France to do so treacherous a thing as to deliver towns in Spain; I think they shou'd be obliged to depossit the three towns formerly mention'd, Theonville, Vallenstien, and Cambray, and that for the rest of the Preliminaries shou'd continue as they are, except the 87 article; I must also own to you that when France shall have executed what the Preliminaries requiers that they are so intirely in ower powers that they will find it their Interest to be sincere; if this matter goes on you shou'd lose no time in settling with my L^d Townshend and the Comte de Zenzindorff the proportion that England, Holand and the Emperor shou'd be att in this Warr for the reducing of Spain, I mean the number of Troopes, for I shou'd hope it wou'd not need any great force att sea, nor can I think this warr wou'd last long: If I cou'd flatter myself that Holand were willing and able to continue for three yeares longer the Warr you might then reject what is now propos'd and be assur'd that in that time with the blessing of the Almighty you might impose what Conditions you shou'd think fitt; but if the warr can't be continued I should think this a properer time then the Winter, I mean not til you have first settled the State of Warr and expences of the next Campagne, I beg you will be careful that no accident happen to this paper. The enclosed is the copie of my letter to L^d Townshend.

¹ Placed under this date in the collection of the Marlborough correspondence at the Hague. The foldings of the paper are the same as those of the open letter of this date.