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Hague, March 11.

Saturday last being the 8th Instant, was the Anniversary of the Prince of Orange's Birth, and of his Serene Highness's attaining the Age of Eighteen Years, the Term prescribed by the States of the several Provinces for the Period of his Minority, and entering upon the Functions of his hereditary Honors and Employments, in his several Qualities of Stadtholder, Captain-General and Admiral-General of the Union. This long-wished-for Day was ushered in at Seven in the Morning, by the Discharge of Twenty-one Pieces of Cannon planted without the Town, which Salvo's were repeated at Noon, and at Eight o'Clock in the Evening.

A little before Eight o'Clock in the Morning all the Generals and Staff Officers in Town assembled in the Apartments of the Stadtholder, to make their Compliments to his Highness. At Eight o'Clock the great Deputation of the States-General, consisting of the President, the First Member of each Province, and the Grefrier of their High Mightinesses, waited on the Prince to make their Congratulations, and to invite his Serene Highness to take his Seat in their Assembly. This Deputation was received by the Prince with the usual Distinctions, and conducted back in the same Manner.

The Deputation of their High Mightinesses being withdrawn, was followed by a Particular Deputation from each Province, deputed from their respective Provincial Assemblies, on Purpose to receive the Oath of their Stadtholder upon taking Possession of his eminent Functions, beginning with Guelderland, and ending with That of Groningen. All these Deputations were received and conducted back by the Prince Stadtholder with the same Formalities as That of their High Mightinesses.

These Ceremonies being over, the Prince was conducted, by Two Deputies of their High Mightinesses, to the Assembly of the States-General, where his Highness, being seated in an Elbow-Chair opposite to the President, was complimented in the Name of the Assembly, to which his Highness returned an Answer: Upon which the Oath was administered to him by the President; and That done, he was conducted by Two Deputies to the Stadtholder's Seat at the Upper-End of the Table, and there installed.

This solemn Installation being performed, the Council of State were admitted into the Assembly of the States General, and informed by their President, that his Serene Highness their Hereditary Stadtholder had taken the necessary Oath, and would immediately take his Seat in their College: After the Council was withdrawn, the Prince was conducted by three Deputies of the States General, and introduced into

the Council of State, where, having taken his Seat, and assisted for some Time at the Deliberations, he withdrew to his Apartments, conducted by four Deputies of the Council.

At One o'Clock in the Afternoon, a Deputation from the States of Holland, consisting of Count Bentinck First Noble of the Province, and a Burgomaster from each of the Towns of Dort and Amsterdam for South Holland, and of Alkmaar for North Holland, conducted the Prince into their Provincial Assembly, where he took his Seat in the Stadtholder's Chair, and was complimented by the Grand Pensionary in the Name of the States, and returned a suitable Answer; after which the Oath was administered to him.

His Serene Highness after this was introduced, by Deputies from the Provinces of Holland and Zealand, into the Court of Holland; and being met at the Door of the Council-Chamber by the President of that Supreme Court of Justice, was conducted by him to the Stadtholder's Seat, where he was complimented by the Grand Pensionaries of Holland and Zealand, and the President of the Court. The Compliments being ended, the Prince assisted in his Quality of Stadtholder, at the Pleading of a Cause, and formed the Conclusions, upon which the Sentence was pronounced; and his Highness returned to his Apartments, accompanied by the President and the whole Court of Justice, who there took Leave of him.

All these Ceremonies being over, his Serene Highness proceeded in State from the Stadtholder's Lodgings, to the Palace called the Old Court, (where a magnificent Entertainment was provided) through some of the principal Streets of the Town, escorted by his Life-Guards, and by Detachments of the Horse and Dragoon Guards, in Garrison in this Town: The Companies of Burghers of the Hague were under Arms, and lined the Streets through which the Cavalcade passed.

The Deputies of the States-General, and of the Council of State, followed in the Procession, in their own Equipages, and preceded by their Messengers on Foot. The usual Honors were paid at the Old Court to their High Mightinesses, and to their Noble Mightinesses, who were received at the coming out of their Coaches by the Gentlemen of the Prince's Court.

After the Dinner, at which the abovementioned Persons, with the General Officers, assisted, his Serene Highness went in his Coach, without Ceremony, to see the Illuminations in the Town, which were universal, and very elegant.

Nothing can exceed the Satisfaction and Joy which prevailed upon this happy Occasion; the Ease and Spirit, with which the Prince Stadtholder

