

land was layd wast and depopulated then is in all Europe and some parte of Asia, in revenge wherof their owne religious men do make accompte that the just God in judgment will one day horribly chasten and peradventure wholly subvert and root out the Spanish nation from the world. Againe if it bee noted that the Spaniards have above 20 severall times in vayne sought the conquest of Guiana, and that it doth by the providence of the Almighty now (as it were) prostrate herselfe before her Majesties feet the most potent enemy that the Spaniards hath, not onely intreating but by unvaluable offers and unanswerable reasons alluring, even urging and forcing her highnes to accept it under her alleigeance, who would not bee perswaded that now at length the great judge of the world, hath heard the sighes, grones, lamentacions, teares, and bloud of so many millions of innocent men, women, and children afflicted, robbed, reviled, branded with hot irons, roasted, dismembred, mangled, stabbed, whipped, racked, scalded with hott oyle, suet, and hogsgrease, put to the strapado, ripped alive, beheaded in sport, drowned, dashd against the rocks, famished, devoured by mastifes, burned and by infinite cruelties consumed, and purposeth to scourge and plague that cursed nation, and to take the yoake of servitude from that distressed people, as free by nature as any Christian. In comtemplation of all which things, who would not bee encouraged to proceed in this voyage, having in a maner none other enemies but these Spaniards, abhorred of God, and man, being provoked by so many allurements, occacions, reasons, and opportunities, in a most just cause, the safety of our dread soveraigne, of our selves, and of a great part of the Christian world thereuppon depending.

From: Major Problems in Atlantic History. Alison F. Games & Adam Rothman, eds. Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

5. Piet Heyn Captures the Spanish Fleet, 1628, 1847

Cardinal De la Cueva to His Majesty, Brussels, 2 December 1628.

Majesty,

The news received from Holland, namely that the rebels have captured the fleet and silver of New Spain, has had ruinous effects here, because no one thinks it possible that the money supply is sufficient for our army and fleet, and because they believe that the enemy, in possession of so much treasure, will display even greater courage, thereby and through the general rebellion, which—they surely suppose—shall follow the termination of wages, for now, at the moment, one sees open unrest amongst the soldiers everywhere, and we have news that especially in Zandvliet and in Damme some soldiers have adopted a very bold attitude, for they do not doubt that great disasters shall occur. And indeed there is now more than ever reason to fear, because of what I have just related, and because now there is no relief, for we lost the credit that we enjoyed and the money at hand, and everything that can be borrowed is already borrowed. And therefore I considered it necessary

Source: Samuel Pierre L'Honoré Naber and Irene A. Wright, eds., *Piet Heyn en de Zilvervloot, Bescheiden uit Nederlandsche en Spaansche archieven*. (Utrecht: Kemink and Zoon, 1928), pp. 281–283. English translation for this volume by Danny Noorlander; *De Zilvervloot* (<http://ingeb.org/songs/hebjevan.html>). Text: Dr. J. P. Heije [1847]; Melody: J. J. Viotta. English translation for this volume by Henriette de Bruyn Kops.

to take this opportunity to explain it to Your Majesty, for I know that many loyalists here, fearing disaster and expecting it, begin to worry for their safety and so it is easy to understand what the unfaithful will do, who are numerous, and who we know are always seeking a chance to carry out what they have long desired. And because it is true that most of these provinces consider Your Majesty a foreigner and the rebels their countrymen, whom they envy for their freedom, which they so prize, not inclined to obey anyone, least of all those who are not their countrymen, from which flow the difficulties and clear peril that would exist should anyone here attempt to obtain money by the extraordinary means that men elsewhere in similar circumstances have tried, it now appears necessary that Your Majesty command that all necessities be directly provided, to avoid what surely will follow the news, namely a general rebellion of the soldiers and the revolt of the obedient provinces that will be the immediate result thereof and at the same time an attack with much damage, as it is easy to foresee. And everything shall cease if this army just receives its pay, so that it, as necessary, can begin a campaign. And if by these circumstances, which the obedient and disobedient subjects deem hopeless, they display great courage, that would then have an effect of uncommon meaning for the safety of these provinces and even for Your Majesty, not only for prestige, but for the glory with which Your Majesty's greatness before all eyes would be veiled. And now is the best time to show it.

God protect Your Majesty.

NOTICE

This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S.C.)

The Silverfleet (De Zilvervloot)

1. Did you hear about the silver fleet?

The silver fleet of Spain?

Which carried many Spanish "matten" [coins]

Plus small apples of Orange

Piet Hein, Piet Hein

Piet Hein his name is short

His deeds are grand, his deeds are grand

He won the Silverfleet!

2. Did Piet Hein then not speak an earnest word:

"Well my lads of Orange,

Come on, let's board this and that Spanish ship

And seize those Spanish coins!"

Piet Hein, Piet Hein

Piet Hein his name is short

His deeds are grand, his deeds are grand

He won the Silverfleet!

3. Did the lads not climb the rigging like cats?

And did they not fight like lions?

They put the Spanish to serious shame

All the way to Spain their cries rang out

Piet Hein, Piet Hein
 Piet Hein his name is short
 His deeds are grand, his deeds are grand
 He won the Silverfleet!

4. If ever another such a silver fleet appeared
 Say, would you go after it just like that?
 Or would you keep yourselves safe and out of harm's way,
 quietly in your hammocks?
 Well, Dutch blood,
 That blood still has the courage!
 We may not be tall, we may not be tall, [but]
 We would win the Silverfleet

6. English Colonization Liberates Indians, 1629

