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907. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR

Since my last despatch this **king has had a motion made in Parliament to reduce the annats paid to the Pope on vacant benefices, which he says he wants for himself as sovereign of all the Clergy in his kingdom.** He likewise proposes that [391] the right of nomination, which undoubtedly belongs to the Apostolic See, should be suppressed, but the **English prelates will not consent to this.** He has, moreover, intimated to the Papal Nuncio that it is not himself who brings forward these measures, but the commoners who hate the Pope most wonderfully, and that if His Holiness choose to do something for him he (the King) will be extremely thankful, and do wonders in opposing the Turk; otherwise he will do nothing to help him.

Having lately called on the duke of Norfolk respecting the business of the deputies, who took their departure for Flanders the day before yesterday, he shewed me eight or ten plans for the construction of certain castles and fortresses on the frontiers of Scotland, and among others that of a citadel to be raised at Baruike (Berwick) in the form of that of Tournay; the said Duke boasting that within a very short space of time that town would be made one of the strongest in Christendom. I cannot say whether it be really the fear of the Scots which makes these people thus prepare for war, or whether all this military array is only an excuse for asking money from the people, as I have already informed Your Majesty, and that both the King and the Commons understand each other on this point. The Scotch king-at-arms, about whom I wrote in my last despatch, is still here soliciting a safe-conduct for the ambassadors of his nation whom king James wishes to send to France; they are three in number, one bishop and two lords among the principal of that kingdom. *And as I have been told by the landlord, at whose house the said king-at-arms is lodging, the Scotch ambassadors are going to France for the purpose, among others, of negotiating the marriage of their master (king James) to one of the daughters of Francis, a scheme which by no means meets with this king's approbation, and which he would be glad to defeat.*

The Queen yesterday sent me word to say she had heard the King felt sure that the Pope would again prorogue the trial of this divorce case until Your Majesty should return to Spain, and that should such be the case she considered herself as irretrievably lost. She accordingly begged me to entreat Your Majesty to write again to the Pope, with such dignity and affection (*si royalemant et affectueusement*) that, putting aside all dissimulation and the vacillation for which he is so notorious, he should at once give sentence in this case, for she has suffered already so much that she cannot possibly endure any longer.

Since my last nothing has been done in Parliament.— London, 27th February [15]32.

Signed: "Eustace Chapuys."

Addressed: "To the Emperor."

French. Holograph partly in cipher. pp. 3.