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948. EUSTACE CHAPUYS to the SAME [the Emperor]

The stay that the baron de Montfalconet has made here is by no means to be imputed to him or to me, since from the very moment of his arrival in this country both he and I took all means in our power for the ready and favourable dispatch of the business he [the Baron] had in hand. Yet such was the importance of the case, and so great were the hopes thrown out by this king that the answer of France would come soon, so frequent and pressing his requests added to the advice of the Queen, that the Baron has unwillingly made a much longer (and to him most annoying) stay than he anticipated, though after all the delay has been unprofitable, as Your Majesty cannot fail to hear from the Baron himself.¹

The King has again applied to Parliament for a subsidy in money to fortify the frontiers of Scotland. During the debate two worthy members of that assembly were bold enough to declare openly and in plain terms that there was no need at all of such military preparations as the King purposed to make, for the Scotch would never declare war or invade England without having an ally on the Continent, and that the best fortifications against the enemy consisted in maintaining justice in the kingdom and keeping on friendly terms with Your Imperial Majesty. That not to irritate you, Parliament ought at once to beseech this king to return to his legitimate wife and treat her kindly; otherwise they considered the whole kingdom as completely ruined and lost. It was not to be supposed (they said) that Your Majesty, who was the prince in the World who had the greatest power of inflicting harm on this country, would let the opportunity pass of taking up the defence of the Queen, your aunt. Even if Your Majesty were to relent in your purpose such feuds and intestine dissensions would arise therefrom as to completely destroy and subvert the whole kingdom.²

These sentiments of the two members meeting with the approbation of the whole Parliament with the single exception of two or three present, nothing was then resolved about the said subsidy; but the King, exceedingly displeased at the turn the affair was taking, sent for the majority of the members, and made them a marvellously long speech in justification of his intended divorce, representing to them that this was not a matter for them to consider and discuss, or to be introduced with other Government measures. *This the King said in the most gracious and amiable terms, promising the members that they should be thoroughly supported against the encroachments of ecclesiastical power, and the rigours of the Inquisition, which, I am told, are greater here than in Spain. True, he did not say all this openly to all those present on the occasion, but still he said enough to make them understand what he meant thereby.* To those who have had a hand in the affair the King spoke in very different terms, and in such a manner that, as I hear just now, Parliament has at last voted a subsidy of one tithe and a half on Church property, which after all is not so much as I imagined at first, as it will only amount to 28,000.. sterling, one-half payable at the Purification of our Lady next February, and the rest one year after.³ Many people, however, think that when the time comes for levying this tax there will be

1 "Toutes foys limportance du cas, lexpoer que le roy nous donnoit de la brefve rponse de france, et ses instantes requestes, ioint laduys de la royne, ont contraint le dit baron a ceste longue et a luy fascheuse demeure."

2 "Et quil falloit croire que vostre maieste, questoit le prince du monde que plus leur pouvoit nuyre, ne la yroit (lasseroit ?) couler le droit de sa tante, et que quant bien cela cesseroit les parcial-lites et discordes intestines, questoint apparentes de naystre pour ceste cause, ruyneroint et evertiroint le royaume."

3 "Ceulx que ont manie les affaires ont parle plus clerment, tant y a quil leur parla de sorte que a ce que lon me vient de dire les ditz estatz ont accorde une xvme, qui nest pas si grande chose que ie pensoye, car elle ne montera que xxviii. m. lb. sterlins."

riots. The King has likewise sent to Parliament very lately a Bill empowering him to levy certain duties on legacies, as I have already had occasion to inform Your Majesty, but the majority of the members will not hear of it.

The good Franciscan friars, about whom I wrote to Your Majesty, are still in prison. They have been warned that the King, the better to punish them for their offence, has sent instructions to his ambassador at Rome to obtain a commission addressed to the provincial of the Franciscans (*ceulx de la large manche*) to proceed against them, which would be a very great injury, not only to them but to the whole of their Order. The Queen, therefore, and they themselves have begged me to intercede with Your Majesty that the Imperial ambassador at Rome may be written to on the subject. The Nuncio has already done so at my request.—London, 2nd May [15]32.

Signed: “Eustace Chapuys.”

French. Holograph, pp. 2.

