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29 July [1532]
K. u. K. Haus-
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980. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE SAME [THE EMPEROR].

(*Cipher:*) The King was on his way to the Northern counties where he intended to hunt [this autumn], all those who wish him away from this place having incurred great expense in provisions and so forth, when he suddenly changed his purpose, and came back to town. The causes of his return are variously explained. Some say that for the last three or four days after he started on his journey, **wherever he went accompanied by the Lady, the people on the road so earnestly requested him to recall the Queen, his wife, and the women especially so insulted the Royal mistress, hooting and hissing on her passage, that he was actually obliged to retrace his [488] steps.**¹ Others fancy that it is on account of some movement of the Scotch, who have lately made a raid across the Northern frontier, and among other damage done, have slain one of this king's captains ; with this additional circumstance that the Scotch raid commenced when the ambassadors of king James had already been four days in England asking for the restitution of the town and castle of Berwick. Again some people say that the cause of this king's sudden return to town is that he wishes to break off his former engagements and to favour the King's enemy, the earl of Angus. But I heard yesterday, and again to-day from a very authentic source, that the chief cause of the King's sudden return is that he wishes to be prepared for the interview, now in contemplation, between him and the king of France, at Calais, on the last day of September next, and that the six or eight vessels which three days ago he ordered to be got ready with all haste are destined to escort him to the said port of Calais, though, on the other hand, it is publicly announced that the armament is really meant against the Scots. I must say that, though the information comes from a very good source, this last plan does not seem to me at all probable. I have, nevertheless, deemed it necessary to acquaint Your Majesty with all these rumours, for, as I hear from the same person who brought me the news, the whole thing has hitherto been kept a most profound secret, so much so that treasurer Febblen (Fitzwilliam), who is one of the King's Privy Councillors, knew nothing about it until three days ago. In addition to which a respectable man (*vn homme de bien*), who had not heard of the said interview to take place at Calais, has just called and brought me news that the duke of Orleans is to come here, and the duke of Richmond is to go to France (an exchange by the way, which seems rather unequal), and that negotiations have already commenced with this king respecting certain plans [and alliances] which having been long ago abandoned cannot be speedily reconstructed.² The French ambassador himself, who counted upon his accompanying the king during the whole of the summer excursion, and had actually started, will he here to-morrow, and it is rumoured that the cause of his sudden return is no other than a skirmish he has had with the King concerning the Scottish affair, which he was unable to adjust during his last journey to France, in the manner this king could have wished, and he himself had promised since his return to town. I shall do my best to procure information on this point, that Your Majesty may be early apprized of the intentions of this king and Court. [489]

Meanwhile, it would appear that in consequence of despatches received from Rome, or fearing perhaps that the Pope is about to issue certain letters of monition compelling him to recall the Queen to Court and cast away the Lady, the King, it is said, has lately shewn his temper in a most remarkable way, and often said in public that he could not tolerate His Holiness treating him in the manner he had done hitherto. The Pope (he said) had no power over him, and he was therefore determined to accomplish this new marriage with

1 "Les ungs dient que cest pour ce que pour deux ou trois iours ou il auoit commence de passer, il auoit este requis bien instamment de la part du peuple de uoloir reprendre la royne, et les femmes avoyent crye estrangement apres la dame, luy disant mille iniures et vituperes."

2 "Ils ont commence de laborer du roy choses que ne sont si tost rabillies car elles sont bien desmarrees et caduques."

the greatest possible solemnity and pomp. He has, I am told, issued orders for suitable preparations to be made against such an event, and Tallebot (Talbot), who is a sort of Grand Master, and has some other pre-eminence at the coronation of queens, has been sent for. No one of those present when the King made the above declaration dared remonstrate in the least, though all were exceedingly displeased at the time, and the courtiers greatly scandalized for fear he (the King) might carry his plan into execution. Though this is not probable, I have taken care to warn the Queen that she may guard against the King's threats, and watch every opportunity to arrest the intended blow.

I hear from Paris that just at this moment, and by the advice of Parliament, two conclusions have been debated and carried there, namely: that according to, and by right Divine, the Pope could not excommunicate the king of France. Also that no female could legally obtain and possess the kingdom. The debate on these matters, as I can hear, has been instituted and carried out at the express request of this king³ for the purpose and with the intention which Your Majesty's great wisdom will understand much better than I can describe. Had the Pope taken his measures at the beginning, when the Parisian doctors dared dispute his authority on the divorce question, all this might have been avoided.—
London, 29th July 1532.

Signed: "Eustace Chapuys."

French. Original entirely in cipher. pp. 4.

3 "Je suis aduertie de paris que ces iours out este par ladueu (*sic*) du parlement disputez deux conclusions assçauoir que par et selon le droit diuin le pape ne pouoit excommunier le roy de france. Item que nulle femme estoit habille ne capable a tenir ne posseder royaulme, la quelle dispute, a ce que ientende, a este dresse et promue a linstance de ce roy."