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26 March [1532]
Vienna Archives

898. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

Received yesterday his letters of 29 Feb., with postscripts of 3 and 6 March.

After the Bill of the Annates was passed in the House of Lords, the proctors and deputies of the towns and communes refused it, though most of them were chosen by the King's pleasure, and he gave them to understand that in Spain and other places annates were not paid, and they had amounted in 50 years to two millions of gold. He promised also not to take any new measures against the Pope for a year, and meanwhile would treat with him. Seeing that these remonstrances were fruitless, he caused the House to divide, and some passed to his side for fear of his indignation, so that the article was agreed to, but rather more moderately than it was proposed. In a year the Pope will only take as annates a 20th part of what he formerly had; and if the Pope refuses, the two archbishops will have the power of conferring dignities and of consecrating, or, in their stead, two bishops appointed by the King. These practices and others are notorious, but the King and his party try in every way to conceal the truth. Norfolk called the other day on the Nuncio, and tried to persuade him, with great protestations of speaking the truth, that it was the people who had urged on this affair of the annates, and that they had formerly proposed other measures against the Pope, but the King had defended the rights and authority of his Holiness. As to the annates, it was in the King's power to do as he pleased in the name of his people, and it rested with the Pope himself whether he should enjoy the annates and his other prerogatives in the kingdom. He assured the Nuncio of all this on his honor, and asked him to inform the Pope. The Nuncio, in reply, spoke of the conduct of the King and the Court; which was very different to what the Duke said. To which the Duke could only reply, that he was not speaking of means, but of results, and did not wish to enter into a dispute.

Was visited to-day by the French ambassador, who, he thinks, was asked to try to make him believe the same story. Supposes he will write to his master, as they wish here, but the Nuncio says that he shall write the truth. **[423]**

The French ambassador tells him that the Scotch ambassadors are going to France to ask for a wife for their master, but he thinks they will not obtain one of the King's daughters, but probably the daughter of Vendome or of Guise, or the sister of the prince of Navarre. He also spoke of Mons. de Savoye, blaming him for having accepted the county of Aste, as the French king could not renounce either that or the duchy of Milan, which did not belong to him, but were the patrimony of his children. London, 26 March '32.

Fr. From a modern copy.