

From *Calendar of State Papers, Spain, vol. 5.1, 1534-35*, edited by Pascual de Gayangos. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1886, pp. 492-94.

16 June [1535]

Wien.

Rep. P. C.,  
Fasc. 229½.  
No. 35

174. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR.

This very morning Your Majesty's letter of the 29th ult., announcing your embarkation, has come to hand; besides which the French ambassador residing at this Court *has also heard from the sieur de Vely*<sup>1</sup> *that you intended sailing straight for Constantinople, without going first to Tunis and attaching Barbarossa, for fear of losing such a seasonable and favourable opportunity as the present to conquer that city and the rest of Greece; which undertaking the Venetian ambassador*<sup>2</sup> *residing at your Imperial Court recommended very strongly, soliciting and persuading you to do so, and assuring you that his Signory would take care that Barbarossa did not move or do harm to Christendom in the meantime. This news the French ambassador has imparted to many people here, authorising them to have it published. He has likewise communicated them to the Venetian Secretary,*<sup>3</sup> *who now-a-days fills the functions of ambassador, requesting him, as he himself tells me, to call at the French embassy that they may have together some conversation on the subject. I cannot help thinking, however, that the aforesaid news is merely an invention [of the French], and that the publicity given to it is not without some mysterious reason, as Your Majesty, with your incomparable wisdom and perspicacity in such matters will no doubt guess.*

***As soon as this King heard that the bishop of Rochester (Fisher) had been created cardinal, he was so angry and indignant at it that he said to many who were present at the time, that he would soon give him another and better hat, for he would send the Bishop's head to Rome for that purpose; immediately after which he sent to the Tower for the members of his Privy Council to summon again the Bishop to their presence, as well as Master Mur (More), and make them acknowledge him as head of the Church, threatening, unless they did so, to have them executed as traitors before St. John's Day. But no threats or promises have as yet had any effect on them, and it is generally believed that both will be shortly executed.*** *As, however, they happen to be men of great reputation and credit throughout this kingdom, the King has already ordered that sermons should be preached against them in almost all the churches of this city. That work commenced on Sunday last, and is to continue through the next in order to silence the murmurs of the people. Yet as there seems to be no sufficient cause to sentence them to death, the King is looking out for some misprision of treason to convict them thereof, and an investigation is now being carried, on to ascertain whether the Bishop really applied to Rome for the cardinal's hat, to which end several relatives of his, and even gaolers and guards, have been arrested. It is impossible to [493] describe the sorrow and affliction of the Queen and Princess at hearing of such doings, they themselves being afraid that after the execution of those personages, the King may proceed to further violence, as I have already informed Your Majesty.*

*Out of spite for the said nomination, and to vent more openly his hatred of the Roman Church, the King has sent orders and letters patent to all the bishops, curates, and other preachers in his dominions to propound certain articles against the Apostolic Church. He has likewise commanded every schoolmaster to teach his scholars to speak ill of Papal authority, and likewise that in all missals, breviaries, and books of hours, whether it be in the almanacks or elsewhere, the Pope's name should be erased. It is also reported that an order exists that the reading of the Gospels should in all churches be in French;—the whole of this being, no doubt, done for the purpose of infecting his people with Lutheran doctrines, and rendering them more obstinate and prone to repulse foreign invasion, from*

1 French ambassador with Charles; his full name was Claude Dodieu.

2 At this time Richard Pate, archdeacon of Lincoln, was ambassador in Spain.

3 His name was Hironimo Zuccaro. On the recall of Carlo Capello in January 1535, he remained in charge of the Venetian embassy in Londo.

*whichever side it may come, as I have already had occasion to inform Your Majesty.*

*And not only is the King extremely indignant at the bishop of Rochester having been created cardinal, he is likewise sorry at the nomination of the bishop of Paris,<sup>4</sup> in whom he particularly trusted once, considering him before his creation as a very bad Papist (mauvais Papiste); nor has he had much pleasure either at the nomination of the auditor of the Apostolic Chamber (Ghinucci). To divert him from such like annoyances the Lady has lately feasted him at one of her residences, where she prepared beforehand an entertainment and a farce,<sup>5</sup> to which many people were invited, though she entirely forgot to ask the French ambassador, who has not been at all pleased at her neglect. She has, however, so well managed to banquet and amuse her guests that, as the Princess sends me word this very day, the King loves his concubine now more than ever he did,—a fact which has considerably increased the Princess' fears, especially seeing how long the remedy is in coming.<sup>6</sup> In this last sentiment almost all in this country concur, believing it as certain that, should Your Majesty only forbid English commerce with the Low Countries and with your other dominions, matters would soon mend both here and there, as I have often written to Your Majesty, and many friendly personages of this country are daily pointing out to me.*

[494]

The duke of Norfolk is expected here from hour to hour, together with the other deputies to the Calais assembly. *Two days ago the French ambassador was heard to say that the meeting would be prorogued for 20 days more. I cannot guess what the motive may be for lengthening the period of the said assembly, nor do I know for certain what affairs were discussed therein. I have, however, been told that the thing on which the French insist most is to have the Princess married to their Dauphin. Nevertheless, there is actually a rumour among the lower classes that the deputies have already parted dissatisfied with each other.<sup>7</sup> Should I hear more particulars of the meeting and its object, I shall not fail to apprise Your Majesty.—London, 16 June 1535.*

*Signed: "Eustace Chapuys."*

*French. Holograph. pp. 2.*

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4 Jean du Bellay was appointed cardinal on the 21st of May, at the same time with Girolamo Ghinucci, auditor of the Papal Chamber, formerly bishop of Worcester.

5 "Pour le desennuyer de ces fascheries la dame luy a ces iours fait ung festin en une sienne maison ou elle fit pluseurs braues mommeries."

6 "La dite dame a si bien banquetee et momme que a ce que ma aujorduy envoye dire la princesse la dict roy est plus raffole delle quil ne fut onques, quest chose que augmente grandement la craincte de la dicte princesse considerant la longueur du remede."

7 "Il ny a point deux jeurs que lambassadeur de France disoit que la dicte assemblee durerait encoires vingt jours; ie ne sçay la cause du racourcissement (?) de la dicte assemblee, ne autre particularite des affaires dont se traictoit, synon quil ma este confirme que la chose a quoy plus instoyent les françoys, estoit davoit la princesse pour leur dauphin, et se dit entre le commung quilz sont partis mal contens les ungs des autres."