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K. u. K. Haue-
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425. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR.

Since my last despatch I have been pursuing my inquiries into the reason for closing the ports, of which I lately wrote to Your Majesty, but I cannot, either from conjecture or otherwise, discover any other cause for it than that *the King having spoken very bitterly and harshly to the French ambassadors*, the governors [of this country], and especially the Lady, whose chief reliance and trust is on France, fearing lest the said ambassadors should write word to their king, *closed the ports until matters should be smoothed down again*.

Some say that *the cause of the quarrel was the King's asking for the duke of Orleans to come over here, on the plea that he is to marry the Princess*. Others say that the King, wishing to marry the Princess in this kingdom to the son of the duke of Norfolk, desires to be released from his engagements towards the *most Christian King* respecting the duke of Orleans, so that he may not incur the penalty stipulated between them in case of one of the two parties withdrawing from the engagement; and that the French ambassadors have replied that seeing how things have changed since the marriage of the Princess to the said Duke was first spoken of, and considering the prospect of the new *marriage contemplated by the King*, it is absolutely necessary to decide at once either for the observance or the infringement of the said treaty, [712] *but wait until the said duke of Orleans be of competent age*.

One can easily imagine that the King would uncommonly like to have the said Duke [of Orleans] with him, both as security for the French debt, and also to obtain a release from the said engagement, if it does really exist; and that in view of the new marriage he contemplates and also to avoid future mischief, he (the King) would prefer marrying the Princess in a different quarter, which he could never do without the consent of the king of France, who has already good security in his hands in the shape of a large sum of money which he owes him, and which he could retain with far greater reason than this king could demand of Your Majesty the 400,000 *crs.* for not having married the said Princess. And so by means of this debt the French have such a hold upon the King that he can hardly venture to act in this or other things without their acquiescence. He (the King) once told me of a plan he had to free himself from this bondage, as I have informed Your Majesty in one of my despatches, but he does not seem able to find his way to it now.

The Papal Nuncio¹ arrived in London at noon on the day of the Nativity of Our Lady. There was no one to receive him in the King's name either on the road or here. I sent immediately on his arrival to inquire after him, and he sent word back that he was directed to communicate with me on the business for which he had come, but that as he could not well do that without arousing suspicion or giving offence, he would not call on me until he had been to the King; he would, however, send me on the morrow his most confidential attendant to confer with, which he did, so that both through him and through one of my own people the Nuncio has by this time been fully informed of everything relating to the Queen's case, to whom, as far as I can see, *he seems much devoted*. On Sunday the Nuncio went to Court, whither he was to have been conducted (as I reported) by the Chancellor, but the latter could not attend owing to a death which had taken place in his house from the plague, and thus the Nuncio had no other companion than an Italian, who is Latin secretary to the King. The Seigneur de Kochefort received him two miles from Court, and the King was also very gracious to him. **They had a long conference together on Sunday, and, besides, the King has kept him two or three days at Court.** After the Nuncio's return from thence I hope to be able to advise Your Majesty of what passed at the conferences. I heard from Court, before the arrival of the Nuncio, that the King had, at the request of his Council, determined to agree to his case being decided at Rome. I shall hear more about it

¹ The same baron de Borgo or Burgo mentioned in former despatches.

from the Nuncio. It is also said that Parliament is to be prorogued till the 20th of October, but I do not know whether on account [713] of the plague or because affairs are cooling down a little.—London, 14th September 1530.

Signed: “Eustace Chapuys.”

French. Holograph, pp. 3.