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555. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR.

Two days before Christmas the seigneur de la Pomeraye arrived here and had an audience on Christmas Eve. On St. Stephen's Day he and Jehan Jocquin returned to Court, where they remained till yesterday, greatly feted, especially by the Lady. These festivities, however, have not interfered with their business, as they have had time to arrange for the mission of the bishop of Vaynchestre (Winchester), who starts for France to-day. I am informed by de la Pomeraye that this mission is intended partly to return the bishop of Bayonne's visit here, and partly to request the King's [of France] aid and support in obtaining permission [from the Pope] for the divorce case to be tried and decided in this kingdom, and that ambassador adds that as the king of England has this affair so much at heart his master cannot, on account of the great friendship existing between them, refuse to do what is in his power. The said Bishop is starting in all haste; he will be followed to-morrow by Dr. Benoit (Benet), who is returning post to Rome and is to stop at the court of France for the despatches which the Bishop [of Winchester] will have ready for him there to take to Rome. The King has charged the Bishop to beg the king of France to leave Jehan Jocquin here as ambassador with de la Pomeraye, and therefore Jocquin is in any case to remain here till the Bishop's return. They would be sorry to lose Jocquin here, he is just the man for them at the present time. The King has been pleased to offer de la Pomeraye apartments in his own palace at Briduel (Bridewell).

I have not been able to obtain further information respecting the object of the Bishop's mission, nor yet of the particular means which he is to propose for the advocacy of the divorce trial here: but it may be well believed that he (the Bishop) will spare neither promises nor words to induce the king of France to lend all his influence either by entreaties or threats in this direction. Therefore seeing the coldness and cowardice which have hitherto been apparent at Rome, and which will now probably increase, owing to the intervention of the king of France in the affair, it seems absolutely necessary that Your Majesty should write sharply to all those concerned in this business at Rome. **[863]**

The Auditor of the Rota, whom I mentioned in my last despatch as being on his way to Scotland, is still here. It would seem from the strange reception given him here as if these people were about to take offensive measures against the Pope, or else that they are displeased with the object which brought him here. He was [in London] several days before the King would grant him audience; on the 20th he was received before and after mass, but from what I can hear, the King, instead of replying to the Pope's letters brought by him, entered upon his wonted disputes and menaces, putting off his answer till after dinner, when no more was said about it. The third day of Christmas the Auditor returned to Court, and wishing to speak to the King on his way to mass, could not obtain a hearing, and hardly even any notice from the King; the French ambassadors who were proceeding to the chapel would not give him precedence, saying that he was Nuncio to Scotland not here, and notwithstanding his affirming that he was accredited as Papal Nuncio wherever he might be passing, and in all places for which he had letters of credence, and moreover, that he had a special communication to make here from the Holy Father, the King's Council decided that he should not take precedence. Therefore the said Auditor would not accompany the King to mass, but went to the Cordeliers, and fasted on that day; he returned to Court after dinner, but could not obtain audience. The poor man is in great perplexity, and does not know what to do.

Parliament is prorogued here from time to time, as if they did not know their own mind about the measures to be proposed therein. Your Majesty's edicts (*constitutions*) recently promulgated in the estates of Flanders are greatly praised here; they have been translated into English, and printed to induce the people to adopt them here

in full, or if not that, at least in part.

I have nothing further to advise excepting that the Venetian ambassador has told me that he had received letters from Constantinople, stating that the Vayvod had sent to the Turk to ask permission to attend a certain Diet of the Lutherans, but probably the intelligence is not new to Your Majesty.—London, 29th December 1530.

Signed: “Eustace Chapuys.”

After writing the above I have received orders from the Queen not to send this despatch until hearing from her. Today, the last day of December, she has sent some letters for Your Majesty, which are here enclosed, *and has also desired me to forward* the following copy of a letter in cipher, which she has received from a person in authority; it stands thus:

“Señora,

“I have spoken with Dr. Benet, who is a great friend of mine, and he has told me that great pains are now being taken at Rome to have your cause brought to a conclusion; [864] but that a delegate (*escusador*) had come forward there on behalf of the King, claiming that in right of the privileges belonging to his kingdom the cause should be tried at another place [than Rome], since (they say) the Emperor is defending the case for Your Highness, whilst the king of France takes the other side, and between them two they own the greater part of Christendom. In consequence thereof it has been decided that Rome and nowhere else should be the place for the case to be decided. The said Doctor has told me that Your Highness’ commissioner (*procurador*) had asked for immediate action in this case, and that at the instigation of the English ambassadors and other persons, the Pope went for that day into the country and the next feigned illness. The cause of his (Dr. Benet’s) coming here, as he himself says, is to state in the Pope’s name that justice must be done, but it appears that when he (Benet) made this statement to the King, the latter said he should pay no heed to such a decision, though the Doctor clearly shewed that the sentence once passed would be irrevocable. Let Your Highness then use every effort to overcome the other party (*Los contrarios*) through relations and friends while it is yet time, for if this opportunity be once lost it will be with difficulty recovered. I write as a faithful servant of the King, my Lord, and of Your Highness, that you should save your husband’s honour from those who are daily heaping disgrace on him.”

French. Holograph. pp. 3.