

From *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 5: 1531-1532*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1880, pp. 167-69.

31 July [1531]
Vienna Archives

361. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

According to the custom that was between them, of visiting each other every three days, the Queen sent to the King six days ago to inquire of his health, and tell him of the concern she felt in not having been able to speak with him at his departure; but since it was said that she was to be deprived of this pleasure, and likewise not to follow him, it would have been some consolation at least to have bid him adieu; but in this, as in all other his commands, it was for her to show obedience and patience. On hearing the message, the King for some time took counsel with Norfolk and Dr. Stephen, **recalled the messenger, and in great choler and anger, as it seemed, charged him to tell the Queen that he had no need to bid her adieu, nor to give her that consolation of which she spoke, nor any other, and still less that she should send to visit him, or to inquire of his estate;** that she had given him occasion to speak such things, and that he was sorry and angry at her because she had wished to bring shame upon him by having him personally cited; and still more, she had refused (like an obstinate woman as she was) the just and reasonable request made by his Council and other nobles of his realm; that she had done all this in trust of your Majesty, but she ought to consider that God was more powerful than you; and, for a conclusion, that henceforth she must desist from sending him messengers or visitors. On this the Queen wrote to him that she was sorry for the anger and illwill he had against her without cause, for all that she had done had been by his leave, and for the honor of both, and discharge of their consciences, and that her hope did not depend on your Majesty, nor on any prince alive, but only on God, who was the real protector of justice and truth, and that what your Majesty had done was quite as much out of regard for him as for her. The King delayed replying to this for three days, and then, after having taken sufficient advice, made a poor enough reply, in which he said nothing about your Majesty or about the other points, but wrote only that she was very obstinate to have sworn she had never known prince Arthur, and also that she had gone saying and preaching it (*preschant*) to all the world, and that she was very much deceived if she founded herself upon that, for he would make the contrary quite evident by good witnesses; which being the case, nothing was more certain than that the Pope had no power to dispense, as by his knowledge and learning, which was such as all the world knew, he had invincibly shown; and she would do more wisely to employ her time in seeking witnesses to prove her pretended virginity, than to waste it in holding such language to all the world as she did; and instead of writing to him, or sending messages, she had better attend to her own affairs. He also wrote other things of the same character, which have not yet been reported to me. The letter had no address, probably because they mean to change her name, and have not yet determined what title to give her, if they had leisure to do it; for during three days they have been more occupied in drawing up this letter than could be imagined; and it may be supposed, considering the **[168]** Lady's authority, and the good reasons contained in the said letter, that she must have dictated it (*decretee*). The Queen, seeing such rude *façons de faire*, doubted at first that the King had received from Rome some great assurance about his cause; but I showed her the contrary, and that the King's conduct proceeded rather from distrust and half despair; so that she is now free from anxiety. But, as she sent to tell me yesterday, she is greatly piqued by the news, which have been confirmed, of the delay which has been granted in his case, at the intercession of the king of France, fearing that his Holiness may be drawn to something more than delay, or that these here may wait for some new device in the future Parliament. I told her that the Pope had not very much obliged the king of France, being so long in according to him that which justice demanded; viz., that he would observe the holidays, and that to do otherwise would be a wrong to the King, seeing that they had done the same in the process here at her request; and that

she must believe that as the Pope had so often been advertised by you and others of the dangers and slanders which would arise from the delay, not merely to this kingdom, but to the See Apostolic, that he would not have granted it, except upon very good reason. For which she was much obliged to me, and has written to me to say that she had escaped from great sorrow and turmoil. The Princess is now with her, and this will make her forget her grief for the absence of the King. They amuse themselves by hunting, and visiting the royal houses round Windsor, expecting some good news from Rome.

The elect of Amiens has been sent hither by De la Barre, provost of Paris, to arrange with the duchess of Suffolk touching her dowry. He went straight to the lodging of the Duchess, and will return immediately. Joachim is gone to Dover, waiting for the King, and to escape the dangers of sickness at this season, and to visit his hermitage. He has sent over six French prisoners to France, who were detained here as Lutherans.

A captain of Monegue arrived here with letters to the King, urging him to send six galleys against the Infidels.

At the request of the abbots of this country, and by advice of the chapter general of the Cistercians, there has lately come hither the abbot of Chalia (Chailly) to visit the houses of his Order, of which there is great need. But, in spite of many good and judicial arguments, the King would not allow him, saying that he would not allow anybody to meddle in the affairs of his kingdom, except himself; and that he was King and Emperor, and, if I remember rightly, Pope.

I have received 1,500 livres, which will not pay one third of my debts. Begs he may be provided with some benefice.

Touching the resolution of your Majesty for the pension of the duke of Norfolk, I will behave to him and other nobles as I have done hitherto, without giving them the least scent of a pension. If Dr. Fox has left Paris. as your ambassador writes, he must have gone and suborned other universities, for he has not returned home. A gentleman of the King's stable, named Penicon, has brought letters from France to Joachim, who has been compelled to leave Dover and come to Court, and expects he will have to stay here five days,—which shows it is matter of importance. And it is probable that the men here, wishing to complete their folly, would make others fools as well as themselves; for there is reason to think they are soliciting France to join in a war against you. For Penicon reports, that, speaking about war to the king of France, he replied he would not undertake anything for which he was not well furnished himself without any aid elsewhere; for he had been deceived by his neighbours. And when Penicon said that was Savoy and Lorraine, the King said clearly that it was all of them. Joachim has been commissioned to ask for a subvention more large and expeditious than the former. Ortiz has written to me that the Pope and the Rota have told him [169] that if there was written evidence of the great familiarity and scandalous conversation and bad example of the King and the Lady, and the illtreatment of the Queen, his Holiness would immediately fulminate his censures. There is no means of getting such an instrument here, but the information of the Nuncio will be sufficient, who has promised to write to the Pope. Advises that the Pope be urged, since the sentence cannot be executed in the holidays, to grant *declaratoyres* upon the brief already executed in Flanders, to prevent the Parliament taking any steps. London, 31 July 1531.

Hol., pp. 5, from a modern copy.