

From *Calendar of State Papers, Spain, vol. 4.2, 1531-1533*, edited by Pascual de Gayangos. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1882, pp. 382-84.

14 Feb. [1532]  
K. u. K. Haus-  
Hof-u.-Staats Arch.  
Wien. *Rep. P. Fasc.*,  
c. 227, No. 6.

**899. THE SAME [EUSTACE CHAPUYS] TO THE SAME [THE EMPEROR]**

The duke of Norfolk said to me two days ago that the King, his master, had written to Your Majesty and to the king of the Romans on the Vayvod's business, as well as to the king of Poland and to the Vayvod himself. The letters had first been sent for the inspection of the king of France that he might add or suppress whatever he thought proper, though he (the Duke) believed the subject to have been so well considered and weighed, and the letters themselves so carefully drawn out, that there would be no alterations to make in them. He ended by saying that he was very sorry that I had not seen them before they were sent away, that I might be witness of his master's good and honest zeal in the affair, by which words, I presume, the Duke meant that the said letters contained overtures of peace. I refrained, however, from asking more particulars at the time, first of all because [383] I considered the matter to be entirely in Your Majesty's province;<sup>1</sup> and secondly, because I would not let the opportunity pass of interrogating the Duke about the Landgrave's agent, and the Diet of the Lutherans at Lubeck. His answer was that he knew nothing of this last, nor of the Prince's deliberations. The King, it was true, had received letters from the king of Denmark (Frederic) but they were chiefly letters of favour and commendation in behalf of certain merchants, and contained no allusion to other matters. As to the agent of the Landgrave, he threw out a hint that the German princes of the Lutheran sect complained of the election of the king of the Romans, which (he said) they considered null and void. *The Duke added that the King, his master, had answered their representations by saying that if they wished to commit the settlement of their chief differences, which consist in matters of Faith, to other princes (meaning no doubt the king of France and himself) both would strive to redress the injuries they complained of, and, the Duke added, that the King, his master, had not yet received a reply to his letter.*

I had no time to inquire about the agents of the duke of Cleves, for Mr. de Norfolk was at this point suddenly seized with a headache which compelled him to retire and seek repose in his own private apartments conducted by his servants.<sup>2</sup>

The return of the bishop of Winchester (Gardynier) is further postponed. I am told that he is to remain at the Court of France until the arrival [here] of the Scottish ambassadors, to treat, as it may be, about peace or a renewal of the truce, which they have not yet been able to accomplish owing to their waiting for a safe-conduct to pass through England, which safe-conduct a Scotch king-at-arms is now applying for.

*The King has lately been trying to pass a Bill in Parliament for the third of all feudal property to fall to the crown after the decease of its owner, but has hitherto met with a good deal of opposition, so much so that several members of the said, Parliament have made use in public of very strong language indeed against the King, his Privy Council, and Government.* Nothing else has been done in the said Parliament except the prohibition of importing new wines (*vins nouveaux*) before Candlemas (*le Chandeleuse*). and this for certain causes and reasons which they allege in favour of the measure, and with which I will not trouble Your Majesty now. They have also tried for some days to prohibit the importation (*deffendre*) of silk cloth, but as some of the members oppose the Bill nothing has been resolved upon yet. [384]

**Respecting the principal point, no public discussion has yet taken place, though the affair is being secretly promoted as I hear, especially by the duke of Norfolk and the father of the Lady, both of whom are incessantly at work to suborn the archbishop of Canterbury (Warham), whom they now consider as Pope in England.**

1 "De quoy ne vouluz enquerer plus avant, puy que c'etoit matiere addressante a vre majeste."

2 "A cause dung mal de teste qui surprint le dit Due, de sorte que le fallut mesner repouser."

Nevertheless the Archbishop has been so forewarned that they have been unable to move him. Indeed it appears that the above gentlemen and others perceiving that they cannot reduce him by reference to the Church's authority, are now about to follow another track. *To this end, as I am informed, the duke of Norfolk assembled at his house a certain number of influential people, to whom he explained how badly treated this king had been by the Pope, who actually refused to send back the cause, which in conformity with the privileges of this kingdom, ought, as he asserted, to be tried and sentenced in England, exclusively of any other country, even if the said privileges did not exist; the more so that many learned doctors had concluded that all matrimonial causes belonged to temporal, not to ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and that the King, who is emperor and monarch in his own dominions, was the sole judge in such a matter as this, with which the Pope had nothing to do.* On this account he (the Duke) had sent for them to ask their advice, and inquire whether they felt disposed or not to sacrifice their lives and properties for the preservation of the royal prerogatives. The first to answer was the Sieur d'Arcy,<sup>3</sup> who said that his property and person were entirely at the King's disposal, but that from what he had read and heard he believed that all matrimonial matters were spiritual, and fell under ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The King and his Council knew very well how to deal with such matters without trying to lay the onus on other people,<sup>4</sup> and especially on those there present. Which answer was approved by the majority to the Duke's great *disappointment and annoyance.*

The King's Council after long insisting on the prorogation of the conferences (*la diete*) for the settlement of trade matters have at last fixed the 1st of March, and consented that the meeting be at Bourbourg instead of Gravelines; the deputies named are two doctors and one master [merchant] of the staple of Calais.—London, 14th February [15]32.

*Signed:* "Eustace Chapuys."

*Addressed:* "To the Emperor."

*Indorsed:* "From the ambassador in England. Received the 6th March."

*French. Holograph partly in cipher. pp. 5.*

---

3 Sir Thomas, lord Darcy.

4 "Le Roy et son conseil sçavoient bien quilz en avoient affere sans vouloer mestre le chat entre les jambes dautres, mesmes de &cedil;eulx qui la estoit.