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951. EUSTACE CHAPUYS to the Emperor

Sunday last, the 5th instant, the French ambassador¹ embarked at Anthonne (Southampton) for Brittany, on the plea, as he says, of visiting the King, his master, who is in the neighbourhood, speaking to him about his own private affairs and conveying the latest news from this country; but in reality the voyage is undertaken, as will be shewn hereafter, at the express desire and sole request of this king. All manner of rumours are consequently afloat about this sudden departure of the ambassador, some pretending that the object is to have the princess [Mary] married, whilst others think that it is for the purpose of fixing the terms and dates of payment of the pensions due to England, or to treat about the threatened Turkish invasion and the means of resistance. In my opinion the principal cause for the ambassador's journey is the Scotch affair; for it happens that no mention whatever was made of it until the messengers sent by the ambassador himself to Scotland returned to London. Indeed, it appears that in consequence of the cold answer received from that quarter, and for fear Mr. de Rosymboz—who as stated in a former despatch has gone to that country—should in the meantime brew (*brasser*) something to their disadvantage, this king and the members of his Privy Council have been since in continual communication with the said ambassador, who, I have no doubt, has been expressly instructed to persuade his master to use all his influence on the Pope that he may yield to the King's wishes, or else threaten him with equally violent measures in France, as have been taken in this kingdom against the annats and other Papal prerogatives. I also believe that the French ambassador has charge of asking what answer is to be given in common to our and the Pope's application for help against the Turk, for notwithstanding the [445] King's assertion to Mr. de Montfalconet and to me, that he had already sent an express to France to inquire about this, I have ascertained for certain, that the message was never sent. The ambassador's instructions on this point must, however, be rather to prevent any help being given, if we are to judge from the King's disposition, and the frequent declarations made by his ministers, since no later than the day before yesterday, after the Nuncio had gone three times hurriedly to Court without being able to obtain an answer to his application, the duke of Norfolk said to him point blank in the King's name that he was losing his time, and that not a farthing of money should be given or lent by the King for such a purpose unless it were at the intercession of France. He (the King) repented that he had ever given any, especially when the Pope was much in want of it; his money had been at other times so badly employed, he would give no more.

Hearing this the Nuncio after a few words said in justification of His Holiness, complained to the Duke that the King and his Privy Council had actually permitted one of the preachers to say some days ago from the pulpit that the Pope was a heretic. To which the Duke answered that it was no wonder, for the preacher was more of a Lutheran than Martin (Luther) himself, and that had it not been for the earl of Vulchier (Wiltshire) and another personage, whom he could not name (meaning no doubt the Lady Anne herself), he (the Duke) would have had the said preacher and another doctor his colleague burnt alive; and he ended by begging the Nuncio not to mention such bagatelles (*petites folies*) when he wrote to Rome, as he (the Duke) would in future surely prevent the recurrence of such offences.

On Wednesday last an Italian named Camillo Orsino arrived here, accompanied by two captains, one of whom is a native of Italy, the other of Gheldres. He comes to see this king on behalf of the Italian "fuorusciti" in France.² Immediately upon his arrival

1 Giles de la Pommeraye previously mentioned.

2 "Mercredy dernier arriua yci de France ung Italien nomme Camille Ursin accompaigne de deux capitaines dont lung est italien et lautre gheldrois. Lequel est venu au roy de la part de la

he addressed himself to the Duke, who gave him rather a cold reception, and shewed no pleasure at all at his coming. Yet he gave him audience on the same day, and procured him besides one from the King for the next, which happened to be Ascension Day. Camille spoke to the King for a while, and exhibited a number of papers and letters he had with him. He intends, he says, going straight to Hungary or wherever the Turk [Solyman] may be, and states that he is only waiting for the King's answer, which he expects to receive to-day or to-morrow. He has brought from France [446] two vessels laden with heavy ordnance, which, in order to avoid detection, he has left at the mouth of this river and is now treating with a merchant from Dantzic, and with a sailor from the Easterlings—who have just come to apprise me thereof³—to have the said ordnance, and some more which he expects from this king, put on board English ships and sent to Dantzic. I have lost no time in acquainting the queen of Hungary (Mary) with the whole of this transaction, that she may be on her guard, and take such precautionary measures respecting the said Camille and his ordnance as may seem expedient. I expect to hear this very day the route which he and his two companions intend taking, and what answer and assistance he is likely to get from this king, and shall not fail to inform Your Imperial Majesty and the said queen of Hungary of the whole matter, as well as of the French ambassador's visit to France, before the return of whom it will be impossible for me, as far as I can see, to obtain a definite answer to Montfalconet's mission.

A motion has been made in Parliament for all ordinances synodal, as well as others, heretofore enacted by the English clergy to be revoked and annulled, and in future no synods to be held in England without the express permission and authority of the King; a very strange way of proceeding since the Clergy will then be reduced to a lower condition than the shoemakers (*cordouaniers*) who have the power of assembling and framing their own statutes.

The King claims also that neither in cases of heresy nor in any others shall the English prelates be allowed in future to lay their hands on persons of any rank or condition whatever, maintaining that bishops have nothing to do with the bodies of individuals, only with the cure (*medicine*) of their souls. The chancellor (Sir Thomas More) and the bishops oppose the Bill as much as they can, at which the King is exceedingly angry, especially against the said Chancellor and against the bishop of Winchester, though he obstinately keeps to his purpose of carrying out that measure;⁴ may God be pleased to send down such a remedy as the intensity of the evil requires!—London, 13th May [15]32.

Signed: “Eustace Chapuys.”

Addressed: “To the Emperor.”

French. Holograph entirely written in cipher. Contemporary deciphering. pp. 5.

scoquist (?) en France.” Camillo Orsino, about whom see vol. iii., part I., pp. 57, 831, really came to London about this time, but who sent him, what was the object of his mission? Perhaps instead of scoquist, *fuoruscit* is to be read, and, if so, he may have come on behalf of his countrymen living in France.

3 “Il a emmene de france deux navieres (sic) chargees de grosse artilleries, les queues pour nen estre decouvert il a laisse a lentre de la riuere et est apres ung marchant de dansic et ung marinier austerlitz, lesquels viennent de me descouvrir le tout.”

4 “Le Chancellier et les evesques contrarient ce quils peuvent, dequoy le roy est tres indigne, especiallement contre le dit Chancellier et levesque de Winchester, et se obstine fort le dit roy de faire passer la chose auant.”