

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. 380-81.

14 Jan. [1532]
Vienna Archives

805. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

The duke of Norfolk told me two days ago that the King had written for the despatch of the Vayvode's secretary to your Majesty, the king of the Romans, the king of Poland, and the Vayvode, and had sent the whole to the French king to add what he thought proper. He told me some portions of the despatch, and implied that there were some overtures for peace; but I would not inquire about them, as I wished to ask him about the Landgrave's man, and the diet held by the Lutherans in Lubeck. As to the diet, he said he had not heard that they had decided anything, and that the King had received letters from Frederick king of Denmark, but only to recommend certain merchants.

To the former, he said that the Lutheran princes complained of the election of the king of the Romans, which they said was void, and that the King had answered, that if they would refer their principal differences, which is religion, to certain princes, meaning himself and Francis, they would try to remedy their grievance. To this the King had had no answer. Had no time to ask about the men of the duke of Cleves, as the Duke was seized with a headache and retired.

The return of the bishop of Winchester is put off, and it is said he will remain in the French court and wait for the Scotch ambassadors, who are coming to treat for peace, or a renewal of the truce, and are now waiting for their safe-conduct. A Scotch king-of-arms has been here about it. The King has been trying to obtain in Parliament the third part of the feudal property of deceased persons, but he has not yet succeeded, and the demand has been the occasion of strange words against the King and Council. Nothing has been concluded, except a prohibition to import new wines till Candlemas. There was some talk about prohibiting silk, but it was not passed.

The principal point has not been touched upon in public yet; but there are practices in private; and especially the duke of Norfolk and the lady's father are trying to suborn the archbishop of Canterbury, whom they consider as Pope of England. However, he was so well warned, that they could [381] not shake him; and it seems that as they despair of gaining their end by an ecclesiastical way, they will take some other road. Lately the Duke assembled a number of persons, and told them how badly the Pope had treated the King by not remitting the cause according to the privileges of the kingdom; and even without these privileges the case ought to be treated here, as certain doctors say that matrimonial causes belong to the temporal jurisdiction, not the spiritual, and that jurisdiction belongs to the King, who is emperor in his kingdom, and not to the Pope; and he asked them for their advice, and whether they would not employ their persons and goods in preserving the royal rights.

The first who replied, lord Darcy, said that his goods and person were at the King's disposal, but he had heard and read that matrimonial cases were spiritual and under ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and that the King and Council knew what had to be done without involving others (*sans vouloer mectre le chat entre les jambes d'autres*). Most of those present agreed with this answer, but the Duke was not pleased.

The King's council have finally decided that the Diet shall be held on 1 March, and consent to Bourbourg being named instead of Gravelines. The deputies are two doctors, and a master of the Staple at Calais. London, 14 Feb. '32.

Fr. From a modern copy.