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7 March [1534]
Wien, *Rep. P.C.*,
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22. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE SAME [THE EMPEROR].

The King's mistress, having gone to visit her daughter (Elizabeth), sent a message to the Princess, requesting her to visit and honour her as Queen which she was. Should she do so (the message bore), she would be as well received as she could wish, and it would be the means of her regaining the good pleasure and favour of the King, her father, and of her being treated as well or perhaps better than she had ever been.¹ The Princess's answer was, that she knew not of any other queen in England than Madame, her mother; and that should the King's mistress, as she called Anne de Bolans (Boleyn), do her the favour she spoke of, and intercede with the King, her father, she would certainly be most grateful to her. After which answer the King's mistress renewed her remonstrances, made her profuse offers, and ended by threatening;² but neither her promises nor her threats could make the Princess change her mind, and she returned home highly disappointed and indignant, fully determined *to put down that proud Spanish blood, as she called it, and do her worst.*³

Before my speaking to the King on the Queen's business, one of the Houses of Parliament (*une Chambre du Parliament*) had declared that since the archbishop of Canterbury had pronounced sentence in the divorce suit between the King and her, and in virtue of that sentence the latter had lost the title of "Queen," she could no longer retain that title, nor enjoy the property which this King had bestowed on her as her marriage portion, together with the title of "Queen." The motion had already been put forward two or three times in the other House (*Chambre*), yet since I have spoken to the King on the subject, the affair has been pursued with greater energy in order to prevent any intervening obstacle. Finally the Bill has passed as the King wished, without much opposition on the part of the members; which is not to be wondered at, since to oppose the Bill would have been equivalent to opposing the King's first marriage, which at the present time would be considered a worse crime than that of heresy. There have been certain proctors (*deputes*) of cities, such as London and others, who, in the name of their respective constituencies, have represented that those cities had intervened as pledges for the observation and keeping of the promises and stipulations of the marriage treaty, and that merchant citizens trading with Your Majesty's dominions might thereby be the sufferers; but their appeal has been disregarded, and they have been given to understand that the said obligation [73] had been abolished by Your Majesty's consent when the treaty was renewed.⁴

The King, the better to incline his Parliament to vote the motion, has caused a list (*role*) to be exhibited there of the lands and estates which he wishes to hand over to the Queen in exchange and as indemnity for those she owned before; the value of which, in the estimation of the King and his people, amounts to 3,000 crs. more than her former revenue. What astonishes me in all this is that the King has not for honour's sake, and to make a greater show of liberality, made out a longer list of what he intends giving to the Queen, since he is or must be pretty sure that she would rather go about and beg charity than accept anything from him (the King) under the title of widow dowager, even if he gave her the equivalent of three kingdoms as large as England.

Some of the members of Parliament, who dared not expressly oppose the Bill about

1 "Et que oultre le recueyl que luy seroit faict tel quelle scauroit souetter, par ce moyen elle se reconcilieroit a la bonne grace et benevolence du roy son pere, et elle se tiendroit grandement obligee a elle."

2 "Elle fit practiquer et solliciter le plus fort du monde la princesse de la venir visiter."

3 "Avec intention de bien rabaissier la gloyre de ce effrene sang hyspagnol, comme elle dit, fera tout au pis quelle pourra."

4 "Que pieça la dite obligation par consentement de vostre maieste estoit abolie par novacion de traytte."

the Queen, are making as much opposition as they can to the one concerning the Pope, considering, no doubt, that the success of the Queen depends in a great measure upon papal authority being upheld in England. I am, however, afraid that in the end, to judge from the way he goes to work, the King will get Parliament to vote anything he wants. Other members there are who, though opposed to the Queen, are much displeased at the King for attempting to separate himself from the Roman Church, such as the duke of Norphoc, who inadvertently said the other day to the French ambassador that neither he nor his friends would ever consent to such a separation. This report, circulated by the said ambassador, has reached the ears of the King, who, wishing to get at the truth of the affair, has made inquiries, the result being that the Duke has partially lost the King's favour, *that being, no doubt, the reason why he dislikes to be at Court just now*, as he himself told me the last time I saw him. Since then we have not spoken to each other.

The Lubeckian Secretary, about whom I wrote last, has made a very short stay here. The King has given him 100 ducats or angels, and a passport to return home as soon as possible, *perhaps that he may prevent the meeting of the Diet, which is to assemble at Hamburgh for the settlement of the claims of Lubeck upon the Hollanders.* The said Secretary, who came here by way of Holland and Flanders, thinks of taking the same route in going back, and has consequently kept most strict silence as to the day of his departure, and so forth; but I have been able to find out all about it, and have not failed to write to Flanders, announcing his departure. He is a native of Vuesfalle (Westphalia), and [74] a gentleman; he had once some ecclesiastical benefices, and I am told that his going to Lubeck was caused by his being accused of Lutheranism.⁵ *I have in vain set up spies on the Scilliarts resident in this city, in order to ascertain the cause of the Secretary's coming, and the charge he has; but hitherto no reliable information has been obtained, and they themselves complain of the said Scilliards⁶ having addressed themselves in writing to the King, without informing them of the contents of their communication,—a case quite unprecedented, as they say, in Lubeck, or in any other town of the [Hans] Confederation.*

Master Cremuel, having yesterday sent me notice of the provision made in the case of certain Spanish sailors, who certainly would have been ill-used had it not been for his favour and intercession, informed me at the same time that the Lubeckians made difficulties about restoring the property on board the ships they took last summer, and that the abovementioned secretary had said so. However, the King, his master, had said to him, and written to them, that the goods were to be restored without delay, those belonging to Spaniards having precedence to those of his own subjects. *Nothing can be more amiable and correct than the above recommendation, but I rather think that this King will do just the reverse that he may embitter and over-irritate the Lubeckians.*

Neither have I been able yet to unravel the mystery of certain visits which the Venetian ambassador (Capello) has lately been paying to Court, as I had the honour to inform Your Majesty, unless it be to communicate to this King the news from Constantinople, and the military preparations of the Turk, as well as the departure of Hybrain (Ibrahim) Bassá for Asia, or, perhaps, to present the duke of Norfolk, the earl of Voulchier (Wiltshire), and his son (George), Master Crowuell, and treasurer Feu Vullien (Fitz William), with certain gorgeous brigandines made of tortoise-shell and mother-of-pearl, having secret drawers inside, which the signory of Venice sends them at the request of the said Capello, their ambassador here, who, as I am told, must have received a hint from one of the parties to that effect.⁷

The French ambassador has recently despatched a messenger to Court for the purpose of asking leave to go back to France, whither, as I hear, this King wishes him to return,

5 "Et a ce que lon ma dit sa re traytte a Lubeck a este causee par la Lutererie."

6 The copy reads, "Jay fait espier vers la pluspart de ceux du Scilliart;" and lower down, "ceulx du Scilliard;" but is not the banking house of the Stilliards meant? See vol. iv., part ii., p. 794. And yet, from the manner in which the words *Scilliard* and *Scilliart* are used, one might be inclined to think that it was a port of the Hans towns.

7 "Certainnes brigantinez secretez faictes des calliez (d'ecailles?) gorgiases et riches, que la Signorie de Venize leur a envoye."

owing to his having found out by experience that whenever he has a negociation in hand French ambassadors accredited to this [75] Court do the work for him in France better than if he sent his own to that country, especially now that he has found the means of bribing the said ambassadors, and keeping them at his disposal.

Every day new books against the Pope are published here, the most execrable and stupid (*inneptez*) that can be imagined. No foundation or reasoning of any sort is there in them; nothing but abuse, invectives, and blasphemies against the authority of His Holiness the Pope, and the Apostolic See, as Your Majesty will be informed by Monseigneur de Granvelle, to whom I have forwarded some of them. Not satisfied with the grossest insults thus poured out against His Holiness, *they keep threatening that they will have him expelled from Rome; and, not many days since, Cremuel said to a friend, whilst conversing on this subject, "If you have anything [valuable] at Rome, I should advise you to make haste and dispose of it, for ere long we will destroy that city, or have it destroyed somehow."*

This King, perceiving that the hidden treasure of the bishop of Norwich could not be found, and also that his condemnation was unjust, has set him at liberty on his taking an engagement to pay him of his own free will 30,000 crs., which that bishop has done. The holy bishop of Rochester (Fisher) has been sent for, and I consider him to be in great danger of his life, owing to his having spoken sometimes with the Nun [of Kent], about whom I once wrote to Your Majesty. Master Mur (Moore), once High Chancellor of England, has during these past days been examined by Cremuel and the present chancellor (Audeley) respecting a letter which he once wrote to the said Nun, and which could not be more prudently or wisely written, for he therein exhorted her to attend exclusively to devotion, and not mix herself up with the affairs of kings. Yet the King, as it would seem, finding no occasion or opportunity to harm the said Moore, has taken away from him the pension to which he was entitled. The annoyance, to which the above two men (the Ex-chancellor and the Bishop) are now being subjected, is merely caused by their having taken up the Queen's cause.

This King, I hear, is very much put out at the delay of the Scottish ambassador, having given orders that the very apartments, which the Grand Master of France (Montmorency) occupied when he last came here, should be prepared for him, and having sent hither provisions of all sorts, as well as malmsey and other wines, which is not done with other ambassadors, of whatever rank they may be. The King is exceedingly disappointed that the Scotchman does not make his appearance.

Monsieur de Morette⁸ is expected here in a few days, on a [76] mission from the king of France; what the object of it may be, no one seems to know at present.—London, 7th March 1534.

Signed: "Eustace Chapuys."

Addressed: "To the Emperor." [Received on Holy Thursday.]

French. Original, partly in cipher. pp. 6.

8 Charle Soliers de la Morette, already mentioned (vol. iv., part ii., p. 971) as having been employed in various missions by Louise de Savoie during her son's captivity.