

From *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 8: January- July 1535*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1885, p. 294.

31 May [1535]
Add. MS. 28,587, f. 319.
B. M.

786. DR. ORTIZ TO THE EMPRESS.

Wrote lately of the Princess's health, and the difficulty of obtaining the executorials on account of the expected interview between the kings of England and France at Calais this May. They say the French king will convert the king of England; of which there is no hope, because the king of England lately tried to cause the French king to separate from the Holy See, and it is thought that he is negotiating a marriage between the daughter of Anne Boleyn (*su manceba*) and the duke of Angoulême. Chapuis writes on May 8 that on that day were martyred three Carthusians, a monk of Monte Sion (*sic*) of the Order of St. Bridget, a very learned man, and another priest, who would not acknowledge the King as Supreme Spiritual Head, but only the Pope. They died with great constancy, and with much blame of the judges who condemned them. **Without any degradation, they were dragged [to the place of execution] in their habits, to the great grief of the people. They were hanged, cut down before they were dead, opened, and their bowels and hearts burned. Their heads were then cut off, and their bodies quartered. The pieces were hung up in different places, one at the gate of the Carthusian monastery, to terrify the other monks, of whom some have been arrested for the same cause.** The cardinal bishop of Rochester and Tomas Mauro, late chancellor, have also been arrested for the same reason and their defence of the Queen. They have been ordered to recant their opinions (*que se desdigan de su sentencia*) in eight days, but, animated with the same constancy, they have replied that they want no time to deliberate, but are prepared to die for the Catholic faith.

Supposes that they are already martyred, and that the Queen, who suffers a continual martyrdom, has sent them before her to heaven. Feels more envy than compassion for them. Their example is great confusion to all these cardinals here, and to the vain cares (*cuidados*) which reign among churchmen. Advises the Empress to order continual prayer to be offered for the Queen and Princess.

On May 22 the Pope created seven cardinals, one of whom is the bishop of Rochester. Thinks that, before he is aware of it, our Lord will have given him the true red hat, the crown of martyrdom. Was much rejoiced at this creation, as it is a new confirmation of the Queen's rights and the truth of the Faith, and a new condemnation of the King and of the errors sown in his kingdom. The other cardinals are the archbishop of Capua, the auditor Simonetta, Gaspar Condarino, a Venetian of holy life and learning, the auditor of the Chamber, the bishop of Paris, and another whom the Pope keeps secret. The auditor of the Chamber has hitherto been a chief enemy of the Queen's cause, and it is said that the bishop of Paris is inclined to Lutheranism (*a parecido a personas Lutheranas*). Cifuentes, therefore, opposed their creation. Hears today that the Pope has created another Milanese cardinal, named Mercurio, a good servant of the Emperor. The cardinal of Ravenna is in prison in the Castle. Rome, 31 May 1535.

Sp., pp. 7, modern copy.