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**148.** CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

I have lately understood by May's letters th[...]ome who are anxious to delay the Queen's process object that they have [...]ot at Rome the procedure before the Legates in England, which is the foundation of the whole cause. They think, perhaps, that the King would give orders that they could not find it, and thus they would avoid sentence being given at all. But I have found it, and I send an authenticated copy with these, which it may please you to send thither as soon as possible.

Since my last I have visited the duke of Norfolk to learn what was doing in Parliament against foreigners. I desired that he would not allow new imposts to be made contrary to the old treaties. He said there was no fear of this; that the matter was remitted to the Chancellor and five bishops, doctors, and others, and that for whatever concerned the intercourse he would care as for his own eyes. He then asked me about the coming of the Turk, and where Don Fernando was, saying he thought the duke of Saxony was doing much mischief. I said it was not true that the king of [69] the Romans had been taken prisoner by the duke of Saxony, and that there was good hope of setting the affairs of Germany in better train; but when I spoke about the Turk, and said many wished his coming, he turned the conversation. He said there were many Lutherans in England, and that on the previous day the finest and most learned preacher in England had been taken, and was in danger of being burned; which he regretted, as the King had not a better man to send in embassy to a great Prince. The Duke made much of the case of this priest, but he was immediately delivered from prison, as I shall relate hereafter. The Duke also spoke of some private business that he had in Parliament, and said he was going to get an ordinance touching the duke of Richmond, his son-in-law. He did not say anything of the Queen's affair, or of anything else of importance.

The said preacher being detained by the archbishop of Canterbury would not answer to any interrogatory, demanding, in the first place, that secular persons of the Council should be present at his trial. There were accordingly deputed the duke of Norfolk, the earls of Oxford, Wiltshire, and Talbot, who heard several errors. Two days after, as I am told, the priest, either weary of detention or fearing the Archbishop would proceed against him, appealed to the King as the Archbishop's sovereign. He was accordingly brought before the King, in whose presence several bishops preached and disputed against him. The King, taking in his hands a roll containing the articles of heresy objected against him, noticed the article in which he said the Pope was not Head of the Christian Church; and said that that ought not to be entered among the heresies, for it was quite certain and true. After the King had heard the preacher he was dismissed in liberty to his house, and he is to preach one of these days, and declare or retract some things which the King does not think correct (*juridiques*). The general opinion is that he has been delivered by desire of the lady and her father, who are more Lutheran than Luther himself, seconded by the King's inclination because he had spoken in his favor against the Pope.

During the last few days the Nuncio was charged by letters of the Pope to make excuses to the King for the interlocutory given in Consistory for the repulsion of the Englishman who wished to interfere in the process. He was also to inform the King of the Turk's invasion, and to ask his aid in resisting him. I advised him to defer speaking on the latter subject for the present, as the King was very angry about the interlocutory; and, seeing that the estates were assembled, if the King thought affairs there were in such perplexity that the Pope required his aid, he might be encouraged to attempt something; whereas Parliament would close in a few days, and the King's anger would subside. This advice he thought good, and he went to court at ten on Saturday morning. Norfolk told him the King was unable to see him, and that he might deliver his message to him. This was

only for fear he would intimate something to the King; for when he had declared it all, he not only entered the King's chamber, but found the King disengaged, and anxious to speak with him. The Nuncio delivered his first charge, but excuses were of no avail. The King complained to the Nuncio of the wrong done to him, and referred him to his secretary for information that he might write to his Holiness, and said the day before he had despatched a post to Rome with rights and allegations, and he would wait to see how they would treat it; and then he would take order about his cause, let the Pope do what he pleased; that he cared nothing for his excommunications, for God had said *Timete eos qui diligunt et sequuntur me et non alios*. As for your Majesty, he knew you had great power to injure him, but did not believe you would, and if so he would be obliged to defend himself. As to the Turk, he was a long way off, and he had no great fear of him : to resist him was the business of your Majesty and his Holiness, and he was not so much bound to either of you as to give you aid. It was clear from [70] his manner that he was rather glad of the Turk's invasion than otherwise. The Nuncio, at the Duke's request, had dismissed all his servants, meaning to dine there, but he did not do so, and returned with one servant only, without any convoy being given him. I cannot yet tell the exact reason why he did not remain.

**I have since received your letters of the 12th along with those directed to the Chancellor, which I have not yet had an opportunity to present.** I spoke on Monday with Norfolk about getting corn from this country. He at first said he had no orders on the subject, and that the King had refused it to Monseigneur de Belgues (Berghes ?) who is the gentleman out of England for whom the King would soonest grant this favor, because it would be for the aid of the English inhabiting the said Belgues. States several arguments he used upon the subject. In the end he promised to speak to the King about it, and give Chapuis an answer on Tuesday (yesterday) morning. On sending yesterday he was put off again till this morning, and today till tomorrow. The Duke spoke to me of the very formidable character of the Turk's invasion. I said it seemed they were glad of the Emperor's difficulties, but I had little doubt your Majesty would have the aid of most Christian princes. After this the Duke offered to accompany me to my barge, but he first took me to walk in his garden, and in going said that your Majesty might be able to oppose the Turk well on the side of Germany, but that Naples and Sicily were in danger. I said, laughing, that the King might help us with the money he had drawn from the clergy, which would be better employed there than elsewhere. He said no one had yet spoken to the King about it; and on reminding him of the request I had made last year, he knew not what to reply. I also told him that it was not merely that they had refused to help in repelling the Turk, but they boasted they had prevented other princes from helping, and that God would dare to punish them. This I said as it were triumphantly; and he in the same spirit replied that not they, but your Majesty, would be punished by God, and all who maintained the Queen's cause. He added that you and the Queen were pressing for sentence to be given at Rome, but it was all in vain, for if the Pope issued 10,000 excommunications, he would not care a straw for them. He then began to argue that the archbishop of Canterbury was the judge who ought properly to decide the cause, and not the Pope, who was too much inclined to your Majesty. He also said your Majesty was very ungrateful for the favors the King had done to you in past times. I said you could not reward him better than by promoting a matter which so much concerned his honor and the tranquillity of his realm, and that those who promoted the divorce were his real enemies. This he would not believe, and said your Majesty would ere long repent not having consented to it. I begged him, for the devotion he had formerly professed to your Majesty's service, that he would declare to me the reason why you should repent it; but he made no answer, although I asked him twice. I spoke to him several times of Monseigneur de Praet, saying I had letters from him of the 3rd inst., and I wished for the return of John Joquin, to obtain further news of him. He said he had letters from Joquin, stating that if it were not for the illness of Madame the Regent, he would have been here by this time, and that he would be very shortly. I could get nothing out of him about the Council; but, for the reasons I have already written, I think they will be very glad if there is none, and that the Turks should come. It is said the

meeting of the estates is to [cease?] on the eve of Our Lady, and they will be prorogued again. The Princess is still with the Queen, to her great satisfaction. London, 22 March.

*Hol., Fr., pp. 7. Endorsed as received 28 March. From a modern copy.*