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13 May [1532]
Vienna Archives

1013. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

On Sunday the 5th,¹ embarked at Hampton to go to the King, his master, in Brittany, on pretence of private affairs, but really at the request of the king of England. Some say the object is a marriage treaty for the Princess; others say, it is to stop the payment of the pensions, or to discuss the approach of the Turk. Thinks that Scotch affairs are the principal cause of this voyage, for it was not spoken of till the return of the man whom the ambassador had sent to Scotland, whence they received but a cold answer, and they fear that Mon. de Rosymbez is brewing something to their disadvantage. The King and Council have been continually in communication with the said ambassador, and it is not to be doubted that he has express charge to persuade his master to cause the Pope to agree to Henry's will, or threaten him to make the same arrangement (*de pourveoir en France*) about the annates in France as has been done in England. Believes he will also have a commission to harmonise their replies about the Turk, though the King told Montfalconet and Chapuys that he had not yet sent to France. Fears his instructions will be to cause hindrance, considering the unwillingness they have shown to give any aid. The day before yesterday the Nuncio, who had been to court three times without getting an audience, was told by the duke of Norfolk that it was wasting time to speak of the Turk, for the King had determined not to give a penny except by the intercession of the French king, and that he repented of what he had previously given, as it had been so badly employed, meaning the help he had given the Pope at the time of his great affairs. The Nuncio, after justifying the Pope's use of this money, complained to the Duke that the King and Council had allowed a preacher to say that the Pope was a heretic. The Duke said, he need not be [467] surprised, for the preacher was more Lutheran than "le Martin" himself; and if it were not for the earl of Wiltshire and another person, meaning the lady, whom he would not name, he would have burnt him and another doctor without mercy, and he begged the Nuncio not to write to the Pope about such little follies, as he would try and prevent them for the future.

Last Wednesday an Italian, named Camille Ursin, came from France with two captains, one an Italian and the other from Gueldres. He has come to the King "de la part de la scoquist (?) en France." On his arrival, he went to the Duke, who was displeased at his coming, but gave him audience the same day, and obtained an audience for him of the King on the following day, which was Ascension Day. He spoke to the King for a long time, and showed him many letters and writings. He expects to go straight to Hungary, or wherever the Turk is, and only waits for the King's despatch, which he hopes for today or tomorrow. He has brought from France two ships loaded with heavy artillery, which he has left at the mouth of the river lest they should be discovered, and intends to send them, with what artillery he can obtain from the King, to Dantzic. Has informed the queen of Hungary, so that she may do what she thinks best, both about Ursin and the artillery. Does not expect an answer to Montfalconet's charge until the return of the French ambassador.

Parliament is discussing the revocation of all synodal and other constitutions made by the English clergy, and the prohibition of holding synods without express licence from the King. This is a strange thing. Churchmen will be of less account than shoemakers, who have the power of assembling and making their own statutes. The King also wishes bishops not to have the power to lay hands on persons accused of heresy, saying that it is not their duty to meddle with bodies (*personnes*), and they are only doctors of the soul.

The Chancellor and the Bishops oppose him. He is very angry, especially with the Chancellor and the bishop of Winchester, and is determined to carry the matter.

London, 13 May 1532.

Fr. From a modern copy.

1 No name is mentioned in the copy.