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22 May [1532]
Vienna Archives.

1046. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

On Monday the 13th, at my solicitation, (“a *la* solicitation,” *query* error for *ma* ?) the Nuncio went to Court to present the brief brought by Montfalconet. On asking the Duke for an audience, the Duke told him the King could not hear him, and he was commissioned to report what he had to say; but the Nuncio said he had no charge to speak to any one but the King. The Duke then tried to find out indirectly the object of his coming, and finally went into the King's chamber, where he stayed about an hour. When he left, the Nuncio was summoned to the King; and, after talking of the news, he repeated the tenor of the brief, and gave it to the King, who seemed astonished and troubled, and said he was surprised that the Pope should persist in this fancy of wishing him to recall the Queen; for if his Holiness said the Queen was his wife, it was not his business to meddle with the way he punishes her for the rude behaviour she daily uses to him. The Nuncio said the Pope could not refuse justice, especially as the case concerned the Emperor and the king of the Romans. The King repeated several times that the punishment of his wife was his affair, and not the affair of any one else, without saying anything of the Emperor or king of the Romans; and he would read the brief and send an answer; of which he has not as yet made any signs to the Nuncio. Perhaps he has sent the answer to the Pope by the courier who went yesterday. Does not know what will be the answer, but is sure he will not obey the brief, but rather do worse. Since its presentation he has ordered the Queen to remove after these holidays to a house much farther off than where she now is, and with [476] bad accommodation. The Queen is vexed, because the house belongs to the bishop of Lincoln, who has been the principal promoter of these practices. It is not surprising if the King does not take much notice of the brief, for the Pope could not have made it weaker than it is if it had been at the beginning of the process; and now after a long process he has decreed this useless brief, instead of giving a “reagravoire,” on the execution made in Flanders.

On Tuesday the Estates were prorogued till November. The King was not present at the last meeting as usual; probably because there was nothing granted except the fifteenth offered by the laity. He neither refuses nor accepts it, waiting till the clergy offer a tenth; which they would not grant, neither would they revoke their constitution. The King is much displeased, and is determined to succeed either in a friendly way or otherwise. Has sent men down the river and to the harbours to search for the ships laden with artillery, but can find no news of them. The Dantzic merchant and the sailor from whom Chapuys heard it are astonished, and are seeking the interpreter who told them of it, to justify their words. Camillo Ursino took leave of the King on Thursday, and received a present of 200 cr. Heard this from Brian Tuke. Has not been able to discover anything about his business. He has been often to the Court, but Chapuys thinks more to see it, and to show certain devices for fortresses, than for any other purpose. He wishes to go to Dantzic or Hamburg, but can find no Easterling who will take him on board, so that he thinks he will have to return by France. Will send word to the queen [of Hungary] which way he goes. He has publicly boasted that he will revenge himself for his property in Naples, taken by the Emperor; and has let fall, as if he were of the Turk's counsel, that before Michaelmas the Turk will besiege Rome. He has openly said that he was going with the consent of the French king, who has also sent hither a captain named Nicolas Rusticq, of Antwerp, who is clever at enlisting and drilling troops.

The Chancellor has resigned, seeing that affairs were going on badly, and likely to be worse, and that if he retained his office he would be obliged to act against his conscience or incur the King's displeasure, as he had already begun to do, for refusing to take his part against the clergy. His excuse is that his entertainment (*traicement*) was too small, and he was not equal to the work (*il ne pouvoit la peyne*). Every one is

concerned, for there never was a better man in the office.

Has received the Emperor's letters of the 28th ult., saying that he wishes for an answer to Montfalconet's charge. Both the Nuncio and Chapuys have asked for an answer, but he does not think one will be given until the return of La Pomeraye, and that then it will be meagre and cold. London, 22 May '32.

Fr. From a modern copy.