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2 May [1532]
Vienna Archives

989. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

The long stay of the baron of Montfalconet here has been unavoidable. We have tried every means to have a speedy despatch, but the importance of the matter, the hope the King gave us of an early answer from France, and the Queen's advice, detained him here. His mission has been fruitless, as your Majesty will hear from him.

The King is again soliciting the Estates for an aid for the fortification of the Scotch frontier. Two worthy men (*hommes de bien*) dared to say openly that the fortification was needless, as the Scotch could do no harm without foreign aid, and that **the best fortification was to maintain justice in the kingdom and friendship with the Emperor; and to this end the Estates should petition the King to take back his wife and treat her well**, otherwise the kingdom would be ruined, as the Emperor could do them more harm than any other, and would not abandon the rights of his aunt : the discord which the cause was provoking would ruin the kingdom. **These words were well taken by all present**, except two or three, and nothing was concluded [462] about the aid. **The King was displeased**, sent for the majority of the deputies, and made them a long speech in justification of his conduct in the divorce. He told them it was not a matter in which they ought to interfere, and in a most gracious manner promised to support them against the Church, and to mitigate the rigours of the Inquisition which they have here, and which is said to be more severe than in Spain. It is true that he did not say this openly before all, but he made them understand it. Those who have conducted the affair have spoken more plainly. The Estates have now granted a fifteenth, which is not as much as Chapuys thought, as it only amounts to 28,000*l.* st.; half to be paid at the next Feast of the Purification, and the rest a year after. Many think there will be some disturbance at the collection. The King has again referred to Parliament the rights he wishes to have on inheritances, but Parliament will not agree to it.

The Observant Fathers¹ are still under arrest. They have been told that the King has sent to Rome for a commission to the provincial of the Broadsleeved order (*ceulx de la large manche*)² to try them, which would be a great insult to the whole order. The Queen and they have asked him to request the Emperor to write to his ambassador at Rome to stop the commission. Has caused the Nuncio also to write.

Desires credence for Montfalconet. London, 2 May '32.

Fr. From a modern copy.

1 Peto and Elston.

2 The Augustinian Hermits.