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5 Oct. [1533]
Vienna Archives

1222. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

I received yesterday morning your letters of the 2nd and 11th ult., reporting the convalescence of the Empress and the triumphant succour of Coron ; which letters, with the two long and indiscreet writings presented by the English ambassador to your Majesty, and your own modest and prudent replies, I have sent to the Queen, requesting her, besides what she will see by your letters, to declare her opinion about the means of giving effect to the sentence. As soon as I have an answer, I will despatch it to your Majesty. [505] In the revocation of his ambassadors from Rome, the King has acted like the Pope, who has recalled his Ambassador, without writing to him, as I have already informed your Majesty. But in place of those he has recalled at Rome, he has deputed Dr. Bonner, and a native of Lucca, his secretary, the Pope's collector in this kingdom (Vannes), and, in place of the duke of Norfolk, the bishop of Winchester ; which is a sign, whatever the said King pretends, either that he has some hope of reconverting his Holiness, or that he is in very great fear. As to the case of Merveilles, the French ambassador, coming to see me two days ago, told me that the King thought it very strange, if it was as reported, but he must await the full justification. This shows that he does not take it too much to heart. The Ambassador also told me he had news from court how your Majesty had replied on this subject most honorably to the satisfaction of the King his master, and that the duke of Milan had put him to death, besides the homicide, as a spy and not as an ambassador, and for attempting to get him imprisoned,¹ and that the case was by no means so bad as it appeared at first.

It is over two years since I replied rather sharply to the King about the imputation of ingratitude he had made against your Majesty, and neither he nor his Council have dared to answer me openly. Underhand, they have, indeed, suggested something similar (*rue quelque propoz voysins*) ; to which I have always replied by the same artifice² ... and hereafter I shall use the same policy for the sake of courtesy, as your Majesty has commanded me. You will see by my last that I have not forgotten at the right time to take up and continue the conversation I had with Cromwell about the Queen, and the preservation of amity, towards which I shall do my best with Cromwell and elsewhere. I informed Cromwell yesterday of the news of Coron ; who immediately went to inform the King, and on the part of the King, sent to thank me, and expressed the great pleasure he had received from it as a thing to the service of God and praise of Christendom, and that perhaps the King would send for me to come today to matins ; but he did not do so, for a reason I will tell hereafter.

As soon as the King heard that there was some probability of the new king of Denmark seeking alliance with your Majesty, he determined to send to the said King the doctor³ who was [there (?)] last year, as I suspect to interrupt the affairs (?) (*pour y me souspeonne interrompre les affaires*). He has also spoken to the prior of the Augustines⁴ to hold himself in readiness to go with the said doctor, which will not be without some strange intrigue.

The truce with the Scots has been concluded for a year, I am told, on the conditions that the Scots demanded, sc. that the place on the frontiers should not be fortified, and that their enemies should leave it. There has been no communication with Beauvois. He is not trusted by either King.

1 "emprisonner." Qu. empoisonner?

2 "aux quelz jay tosjours repondu du mesme artifice qu'ilz estoient propousez n'estoit qu'il me semble mieulx convenir de le dissimuler que fere autrement."

3 Dr. Thomas Legh.

4 Dr. Barnes.

Though the news mentioned at the beginning of this letter was good, a mournful event happened the night following. The fire caught Chapuys' lodgings, destroying his clothes and furniture. Throws himself on the Emperor's generosity. Has been assisted by the Emperor's servants. Cromwell has made him large offers. London, 5 Oct. 1533.

Hol., Fr., pp. 3. From a modern copy.