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10 Oct. [1533]
Vienna Archives

1249. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

Since my last the King has sent some of his Council to the Princess to forbear using the title, which belongs to the one who was lately born, and not to her. He has also forthwith made her very much curtail her attendants and expences. Hereupon the Princess, without taking the advice of anybody, as no communication would have been permitted her, replied to the Commissioners, and likewise wrote to the King, that she would be as obedient to his command as any slave, but she had no right to renounce or derogate from the titles and prerogatives that God, nature, and her parents had given her ; that, being daughter of the King and Queen, she had a right to be styled Princess ; and that her father might do with her as he pleased, she would do nothing expressly or tacitly in prejudice of her legitimacy, nor of the cause of her mother, by whose example she was resolved to commend everything to God and take patience.

No change has yet been made in the Queen's treatment, because, as she thinks, the treaties made about it were confirmed by Parliament, and cannot well be revoked without their consent, especially the assignation of her dower. Parliament will reassemble on the 4th proximo, and the Queen fully believes the King will not fail to make efforts with them to that effect ; to prevent which she begs you by her letters to send some one to remonstrate with both the King and Parliament, or else that a commission should be directed to me to do so, though this would not be so good as sending a man [511] express, for the reasons I formerly wrote. The Queen has also charged me to beg you to press the Pope to proceed at once to the execution of the sentence through all the most rigorous terms of justice possible, without forgetting to solicit the definition of the principal case ; and she fully believes that if you and the Pope hold the reins firm without any relaxation, these men will be brought to reason ; for, with all their show of boldness, they are in great fear, and will be all the more so if the Pope, in whom they have some hope, stand firm. For the love she bears her husband, she dare not speak of any other remedy but law and justice ; **but the good and holy bishop [of Rochester] would like you to take active measures immediately, as I wrote in my last ; which advice he has sent to me again lately to repeat.** The most part of the English, as far as I can learn, are of his opinion, and only fear that your Majesty will not listen to it. Without it they fear that if the prohibition comes there will be a mutiny among them, and an inestimable disorder, which would be obviated by the least army your Majesty could put to sea.

As to having any communication on the guidance of these affairs with those of the Queen's Council, it is no use ; for, as I have often written to you, there is no person who dares meddle for her.

I do not understand why the King is in such haste to treat the Princess in this way, if it were not for the importunity and malignity of the Lady, and also as a pretext for demanding aid of Parliament, as has been usual here at the birth of princes and princesses. Under this pretence they have again selected people whom the King wishes to make knights of, by which he would gain a large sum of money from those who accept ; and of those who refuse he will make an example. I think also that by thus treating the Princess he hopes to bring over the Queen ; but he is mistaken. Or, peradventure, if he proceeds to gratify you by re-establishing her in her state, and by declaring her his heir on failure of the male line, you will not trouble him for his new marriage. Or, perhaps, his evil star brings him to this, in order the more to incur the indignation of God and the world. And it is to be feared he will proceed in his ill-treatment of the Princess, and compel her to renounce her rights and titles indirectly. Or he might wish to make her a nun, or marry her against her will ; against which I have persuaded the Queen to draw up a protestation.

The King has sent for the governor of Ireland,¹ but as he has been twice in prison a long time, I think he does not wish to return. On the 3rd he sent his wife to make his excuses ; but the King, notwithstanding all his alleged maladies, is resolved on his coming. I do not know what will be the result. He has also sent for the nobles of the kingdom ; so that I am afraid there is a flea in his ear, or, perhaps, jealousy at the interview of the Pope with the king of France. He is much in Council, and has sent a courier to France. Two more are to follow with money, as it is thought, to bribe the Pope and the Cardinals. Among the preachers there is one who disseminates more errors than Luther,² and all the prelates apply to the King to have him punished, except Canterbury, who supports him ; but the King will not hear them. And were it not for the fear which the King has that his people are so prone to rebellion, and that his subjects would treat him as the German peasantry did their lords, he would long since have declared himself Lutheran.

There is no need yet of the money for prosecuting the Queen's cause, for which your Majesty wrote to the viceroy of Naples, for I have caused those who have charge of it to be supplied whenever they wrote to me ; and since the sentence was delivered I have caused 500 ducats to be paid, that John Colardy had taken up in my name by exchange. [412]

A Biscayan ship has been lately taken by English pirates on the coast of Ireland ; at which the King and his Council have shown displeasure, and have issued such orders for its recovery and the arrest of the goods as I desired. The mission of the doctor of whom I wrote last, and that of the prior of the Augustines, is broken off.

Begs the Emperor to consider his necessity and misfortune. London, 10 Oct. 1533.
Hol., Fr., pp. 4. From a modern copy.

1 The earl of Kildare.

2 Latimer?