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31 March [1533]
Vienna Archives.

296. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

As I wrote before, the King was only waiting for the bulls of the archbishopric of Canterbury, in order to proceed to the decision of his marriage ; which having arrived within these five days, to the great regret of everybody, the King was extremely urgent with the synod here for the determination of his said affair, “tenant Passistance se de que,”¹ so that those present could scarcely eat or drink, and using such terms to them that **no one dared open his mouth to contradict, except the good bishop of [128] Rochester. But his single voice cannot avail against the majority, so that the Queen and he now consider her cause desperate.** It is expected that the new marriage will be solemnised before Easter or immediately after, for all the necessary preparations are already in order, the royal estate of the lady is already made, and nothing remains but to publish it. Everybody cries out “au murdre” against the Pope for the delay he has used in this affair, and also because he has not delayed the despatch of the said bulls until after the definitive sentence, because he was warned of the great danger of granting them ; and there is not a lord in this court, either on the King's side or the Queen's, who does not say publicly that his Holiness will betray your Majesty. But the dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk speak of it with more assurance, saying they know it well, and could give good evidence of it ; though I believe their words proceed rather from hatred than from truth. His Holiness will be among the first to repent this, for he will lose his authority here, which will be not a little scandal to Christendom, and prejudice to the Queen. For among other things contained in the libel exhibited in Parliament against the Pope's authority, it is expressed that no one shall appeal from here to Rome on any matter, temporal or spiritual, on pain of confiscation of body and goods as a rebel ; and that this statute is to be valid not only for the future but even for processes already commenced, which clause directly applies to the Queen ; and I have been informed, though I cannot believe it, that if the Queen persist in her appeal the King will deprive her of her dowry (*dot et douaire*).

As yet the secular deputies of the Commons have refused to consent to the King's demands against the authority of the Pope, and have even strongly resisted them, alleging several reasons, among which it has been well considered that if the Pope, feeling aggrieved at this, induced Christian princes to regard this kingdom as schismatic, and would only interrupt their traffic in wool, which is the one thing that supports them, it would create a horrible rebellion, and more than civil war. Those on the King's side urge that there is no such danger, because neighbouring princes would be only too glad to follow his example. As for the King's menaces and intrigues, the Nuncio has complained of them to the King, saying the world would find it strange that he who had formerly written in favor of the Pope's authority would thus annul it against God, reason, and the obedience he had given to this Pope, following in the footsteps of his predecessors. The King replied that what he did was for the preservation of his own authority, and to protect himself against injuries done to him at Rome ; that it was quite true that he had written books in favor of the Pope, but he had studied the question more deeply, and found the contrary of what he had written to be true, and that possibly they might yet give him occasion to study further, and re-confirm what he had written, intimating that it only depended on the Pope complying with his wishes.

During the last few days there has been here a Scotch gentleman, who, under pretence of being the French king's servant, has had a safe-conduct to come here. He has been several times at court, both in company with the French ambassador and alone, I know not for what object. I sent to him a confidential person to learn news, with instructions, if he found him inclined to your Majesty, to make him my recommendations ; of which the said

1 Sic.

gentleman showed himself very glad ; and though he suspected the said person was sent by others (*que le dit personnage ne fut envoye dailleurs*), he did not refrain from saying that although he had given the English to understand he was going to France to stay, he was only going on the affairs of his prince, and the first thing the duke of Norfolk had said to him was, how many men-of-war had passed from Flanders into Scotland? The said person also inquired of him about the charge of Beauboers (Beauvais), lately [129] sent by the king of France into Scotland ; but their conversation was interrupted by others. The Scotchman said he would see me next day, and tell me more ; but as I knew he could not come to me without its being discovered, I countermanded it, which he takes in good part. I am told he carries the duplicate of the alliances between France and Scotland, in order to demand assistance of the French king.

I have not been able to learn the particulars of Rochford's charge, but I am told on good authority it is founded "en beaulcop de diableries et choses extravagantes," and that he had already some days ago left the court of France without effecting anything. The doctor² whom the King had sent to Hamburg and to the king of Denmark returned three days ago, and with him there has come a merchant, a gentleman of the said king of Denmark, whom he sends to this King, who only discovered himself to the said doctor at Calais. I am told he is one of the principal personages of that country, and that he came to offer his service to this King ;which I do not believe, at least not against the Scots, considering the relations the king of Denmark has with them. I will inquire both about him and the doctor. Hearing there were some foot soldiers in Holland, I have tried to discover if there was any intrigue going on here, but I can learn nothing of it.

Nothing new has occurred on the side of Scotland, except that four days since the Scotch took eight English ships laden with goods ; for which reason those here have at last despatched (*fait marchier*) the six ships of which I wrote, which had not yet dared to leave this river. I am told that but for the importunity of the merchants, who offered partly to defray the cost, the King made no account of sending them, so little does he care about affairs, except about his new marriage.

Notwithstanding your order to the gentlemen of the finances of Flanders to pay me my due, they write that they are so burdened they do not know how to succour me. I beg you will consider my necessity. London, 31 March 1533.

Hol., Fr., pp. 5. From a modern copy.