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10 April [1533]
Vienna Archives.

324. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

Notwithstanding the remonstrances heretofore made by the Estates of the danger to which the King exposes himself and the kingdom, they have done the very contrary as much as they could, and **there was no remedy that the King by his absolute will should not have constrained them to conclude and pass what he had put forward against the Pope's authority, viz., to declare that all processes, even in the case of marriage, ought to be settled in this kingdom, without recourse to the Pope, under pain of high treason** ; and that if any one in such a case bring in excommunication into this kingdom, he shall be considered as a traitor, and without any further process [150] be sent to an ignominious death. This is only aimed at the Queen ; which some of the Parliament seeing, one of whom sat for the city of London, who had formerly been in Spain, and is my very good friend, they proposed that if the King would agree to remit the decision of the affair of the Queen and of the Pope to a General Council, they would provide among the people 200,000*l.* But there is no chance that the King will listen that the affair be determined otherwise than by the Archbishop, of whom he is perfectly assured, as he has performed the office of espousal (*de l'espousment*), as I have formerly written to you ; and he is fully resolved, as he has told many, and those of his Council publish, that immediately after Easter he will solemnize his marriage and the coronation of the Lady. The better to prepare the way, he sent yesterday the dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk, the marquis and the earl of Ausburg (?) to the Queen, to tell her that she must not trouble herself any more, nor attempt to return to him, seeing that he is married, and that henceforth she abstain from the title of Queen, and assume the title of duchess (princess), leaving her the entire enjoyment of the goods she formerly had, and offering her more, if she needed more. The Queen would not fail to advertise me of the interview. I know not whether they are in any doubt as to the Queen's willingness to dislodge or not ; but about eight days ago, the King's council commanded my lord Mountjoy to rejoin her with all diligence, and keep watch upon her, and not leave her.

Last Sunday, being Palm Sunday, the King made the bishop of Rochester prisoner, and put him under the charge of the bishop of Winchester ; which is a very strange thing, as he is the most holy and learned prelate in Christendom. The King gave out in Parliament that this was done because he had insinuated that Rochford had gone to France with a commission to present an innumerable sum of money to the chancellor of France and the cardinal of Lorraine to persuade the Pope by a bribe to ratify this new marriage, or at all events to overlook it, and not proceed further ; which the King thought his Holiness would naturally do, seeing that the matter was already settled. I think that Rochford must have had this among his other charges. Not to spoil their negotiations with the Pope for that which they were soliciting in these Estates, he begged the Nuncio, by the duke of Norfolk, not to write on these matters to his Holiness. The real cause of the Bishop's detention is his manly defence of the Queen's cause. You may learn by it the gross disorder of affairs here, and the obstinacy of this King, who seems to seek for nothing else except his own perdition. Whenever they speak to him of the inconveniences likely to arise, he says that whilst England is united, it is not conquerable by any foreign prince ; but it seems to me he is doing all he can to disgust his people.

You cannot imagine the fear into which all these people have fallen, great and small, imagining they are undone ; and even if they do not suffer from foreign, they will from civil war. But though their fear be great, their indignation is still greater, except with ten or twelve who hang about the Lady ; so that they are willing to incur great losses, if your Majesty would send an army and root out the poison of the Lady and her adherents. Excuse me if I speak of things concerning your service ; but I think it can hardly displease

you to make an enterprise against this kingdom, considering the enormous injury done to your aunt ; for when this cursed Anne has her foot in the stirrup, you may be sure she will do the Queen all the injury she can, and the Princess likewise, of which the Queen is most afraid. The said Anne has boasted that she will have the said Princess for her lady's maid (*demoiselle*) ; but that is only to make her eat humble pie (*manger trop*), or to marry her to some varlet, which would be an irreparable injury. And the enterprise would be more justifiable to obviate the scandal which will [151] arise from this divorce, and likewise to prevent the kingdom from alienating itself entirely from our Holy Faith and becoming Lutheran ; which will shortly come to pass without any remedy, as the King shows them the way, and lends them wings to do it ; and the archbishop of Canterbury does still worse. The attempt would be easy ; for they have no horse, nor men to lead them, nor have they the heart of the people, which is entirely in favor of you, the Queen, and the good Princess, I may say not of the mean, but of the higher classes, except Norfolk and two or three others. It will be right that the Pope should call in the secular arm ; and meanwhile, in support of the censures already executed, you might forbid negotiations in Spain and Flanders, and so induce the people to rise against the authors of this cursed marriage ; and now and then, in order to animate them, it would be right to take up ships, and secretly support the Scots with money, and prevent them treating with this nation for peace. The chief difficulty is that the Most Christian King might do something new against your coasts ; which I can hardly believe, seeing how just your quarrel is. For when the King here asked Monpesat whether his master would assist him in such a case, he said he did not know, as it was not expressed in their treaties. And if the Most Christian King wished to do mischief, seeing that the enterprise of this kingdom would be of so short duration, and doubting whether he could do anything of consequence, he would wait the issue ; and if this King, who is the right hand of the other, was punished, it would abate his pride. Moreover, as he can do nothing without the Swiss, if they were advertised of the enormity of the case, they would not assist him against your Majesty, especially if you gave them a good pot of wine.

It is very true, that if the Princess were not in such danger as I have said, and that if the people here did not see you take up this affair a little warmly, they would lose heart and affection ; so it would be better to temporise a little, only not allowing them to traffick with your subjects. And, further, in that it appears that there might be some danger that the king of France might make some stir, I think that your Majesty would do well not to allow the English merchants in your realm to be ill treated, for they would be instruments of augmenting the good will of this people. I understand that the King intends to forbid any one speaking publicly or privately in favor of the Queen ; and he will then proceed further, if God and your Majesty do not remedy it. Pray, pardon me, if I thus speak out of compassion for the Queen and the Princess.

The Nuncio has returned from Scotland, and says that the Scots being required by the English will condescend to the conditions they have required since the commencement ; and that they are also ready for war. Albany's secretary is here. The German of whom I spoke to you has been despatched with a letter to the Landgrave. The King will not meddle with men-of-war.

The merchants here, seeing the state of affairs, are withdrawing their money. Begs to be furnished with what is necessary. London, 10 April 153[3].

Hol., Fr., pp. 7. From a modern copy.