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8. THE SAME TO THE SAME [EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR].

Having yesterday written to Your Majesty at full length the news of this kingdom, this will be in answer to the official letter of the 24th ultimo, which came to hand this very day.

*With regard to the high personages whom the Queen desired Your Majesty to send here*, as I have had the honour to state in several despatches, I own that I was never sanguine as to the effect they might have on the King's mind I always doubted whether *any persuasions of theirs could influence him, or whether they themselves could get his permission to appear before the assembled Parliament, and then and there, make such representations as would further and promote the Queen's business.* I was moved to make the application by the considerations I mentioned in several of my despatches, *as well as by the commands of the Queen herself, and likewise at the suggestion of many worthy persons of this kingdom, including Mr. Elyot, who certainly has not been the last to ask for them in his own name, and in that of several others highly placed here, as he has given me to understand. Although the said Master Elyot does not rank among the principal lords of this kingdom, yet I have named and singled him out because Your Majesty knows him well. Even members of this Parliament have sent me messages this last week to the effect that should any one come to England on behalf of Your Majesty, thus giving them occasion and excuse [to oppose the King's measures], they will holdout, they being in hopes that a large majority of good Christians, indignant at the way in which the Pope is treated in this country, will vote with them. Yet it must be said that the means used by the King for the election of members, chosen entirely at his pleasure, as I have already informed Your Majesty; his having countermanded all those whom he thought were likely to oppose his views in this present Parliament, such as the archbishop of York, the good bishops of Durham (Durham) and Rochester, Monseigneur d'Arcy, and others innumerable, make me fear that by dint of such like practices, promises, or threats this King will carry any measure he chooses, as Your Majesty has in your great wisdom imagined.* I shall this very night send a messenger to the Queen to inform her of the paragraph in Your Majesty's letter bearing on this particular point, and, in pursuance of the instructions received, announce to her your resolution [27] respecting the said personages, *adding on my own account, and as proceeding entirely from myself, such observations and advice as will effectually put a stop to any further applications, and make her take the whole in good part, affording her at the same time the consolation which she so much needs. I will do the same with the Princess, to whom not later than yesterday I sent certain consolatory books (liures consolatifs) she had asked for, and which have given her much pleasure.* As soon as I get an answer from the Queen, I shall not fail to apprise Your Majesty, *as well as of the object for which the duke of Norfoch (Norfolk) and Brianturc (Brian Tuke) are now going to visit the said Princess.*

*I some days ago informed the latter that there was a talk in France of marrying her to the Marquis de Saluce (Saluzzo), and that she must be on her guard not to consent to that or other equally unsuitable marriages, if proposed to her, nay, to none at all, however advantageous, without the will and consent of the Queen, her mother, and Your Majesty's sanction if possible; which she has since sent me word shall be punctually executed. The King's mistress had from the very beginning resolved that the Princess should act as her train-bearer, and that she would cause her and her mother all manner of annoyances; but considering that her singular beauty, goodness, and virtue, might possibly induce the King to change his purpose, and that if the Princess were to attend Court, and be seen there continually, she might daily gain the hearts and favour of the courtiers, she has not allowed her to come; so that there has been no need, nor do I think there will be in future, of further remonstrances or appeals on that score, nor of the protests mentioned in*

Your Majesty's letters, since the date of which several despatches of mine must have been received, confirming my former statements respecting the prudence and wisdom of the Princess, who is sure not to do anything to the prejudice of her mother's or Your Majesty's interests.

*With regard to maintaining the lords and others of this country faithful to Your Majesty's interests, and to those of the Queen as well, I have done as much as was in my power; but whether it be my unlucky star that causes it, or the weather, which is very bad and unseasonable here just now, the fact is that I have neither the opportunity nor the means to render Your Majesty the services that I should otherwise have wished, such being my regret at this state of things, that had Your Majesty a knowledge of my situation there would be no need of my making any further apologies or excuses. Your Majesty may easily understand that one of the chief grounds for the preservation of that devotion, which the English in general manifest towards Your Majesty, depends in a great measure upon their seeing and believing that Your Majesty really intends pursuing to the end, and in every possible way, the [28] Queen's cause. Many of them, who perhaps have no knowledge of your affairs, nor of the political considerations by which Your Majesty's conduct must necessarily be regulated, perceiving that you do not proceed so vigorously as they expected in the Queen's business, seem to be rather cooling down in their affection. On the other hand, those on the King's side are sedulously spreading the rumour that Your Majesty cares naught for all these things. Such like rumours, when once circulated, are not easy to contradict, especially when no opportunity is afforded for Your Majesty's ambassador to go to Court, and when, as I have said in former despatches, few, if any, here dare come and frequent my society, just as if I were already a prisoner, and war had actually been declared between the Empire and England.*

Respecting this King's views and ideas of what passed at the conferences of Marseilles, I have many a time before this written to Your Majesty. *I now learn that he is becoming every day more and more satisfied at their issue, and this I gather from the fact of his having had translated into English, and printed, certain Latin verses which I once sent to Mr. de Grantvelle, written in favour of Your Majesty and against the Pope and the king of France, on the occasion of the Marseilles meeting, as this King believes. True it is that he has caused the expressions against the king of France to be somewhat modified (raducies), and that quite lately Cremuel's secretary, recently returned from Germany, visited the houses of many Spaniards residing in this city, to ascertain whether there were also any verses in Spanish against the conferences of Marseilles, in order to have them also printed, which could not well be done without order or commission from his master (Cromwell), and at the King's own bidding.*

With regard to St. Peter's pence for Rome, I must say that I have always got people here to contribute, whenever I received notice thereof. I have thus been able to remit to Messire Colardy 800 ducats in two bills, as will appear from his own letters, which I have lately forwarded to Count Cifuentes that he may see and verify how the said sum has been spent, and give quittance to the heirs of the said Colardy, at the same time telling him (the Count) that if he wants money he may draw upon me, and that his bills shall be honoured. *Though, to say the truth, the Queen is scantily provided with funds just now, yet this must be said of her, that for such an object she will not mind suffering still greater privations.*<sup>1</sup>

*As to the secretary of the Count Palatine (Frederic), the only thing I have been able to discover about him is that of which I have informed Your Majesty. I have been told to-day that one of those whom this King sent to Germany was intended for the Counts court; but, as I wrote in my despatch of [29] yesterday, the people whom this King is now sending to Germany are not fit for such missions; they will probably spoil any negotiation in which they are concerned. Perhaps the King, as I imagine, wishing to justify himself with German Princes, may have sent an agent to the Count, whom he considers as his great friend for the last two years. I must, however, observe that my informer is not a person to be relied upon implicitly. I have also been told that one of the Kings agents is to go to Hungary.*

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1 "Toutesfois pour telle cas, elle na si bonne vacelle quelle ne face voler (?)."

With respect to the restitution of the property taken by the Lubeckian ships, this King has already received an answer that it will be duly restored to its legitimate owners. Yet, as during this winter the navigation to those parts had been interrupted, the merchants here have put off sending for it. That they may not suffer in consequence, I have applied to Cromwell for letters patent in the King's name, requesting the Lubeckians to restore the whole of the merchandise, and at the same time indemnify the merchants for their losses, which the said Cromwell has promised to do with perfect good-will; and I may assure Your Majesty that not only in this affair of the Lubeckians, but in the almost numberless Flemish and Spanish claims in which I have had to interfere daily, the said Cromwell has always until now behaved most handsomely, showing himself on all occasions favourable and well inclined towards Your Majesty's subjects. *Would to God that he had behaved as well towards the Queen, and towards the Pope, whom he pursues and attacks more fiercely than any other man in this kingdom?*

*I will do my utmost, according to Your Majesty's desire, to ascertain the quality, suite, power, means, and authority in Ireland of the earl of Desmond, and what relation he is to the earl of Quildra (Kildare), the governor of Ireland, and whether that relationship, whatever it may be, ought to be made use of for gaining over that Governor, who is said to be just now on the eve of rebellion, being, as I wrote in a former despatch, the most important vassal this King has in Ireland.*

The convocation of Lords mentioned in Your Majesty's letter has not yet taken place. I cannot say what its object may be, unless it is to treat of the affairs *of the Queen and Princess*, or have some plea and excuse for summoning the said Governor of Ireland without arousing his suspicions.—London, xxix. January 1534.<sup>2</sup>

*Signed:* "Eustace Chapuys."

*Addressed:* "To the Emperor."

*French. Original, mostly in cipher. pp. 7.*

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<sup>2</sup> I have purposely suppressed a long paragraph of this letter touching the ambassador's private affairs, who frequently complains to the Emperor and to Granvelle of want of funds for his personal expenses.