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23 June [1534]
Vienna Archives

871. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

It is about eight days since there arrived in two ships the ambassadors of Lubeck and Hamburg in equal number, viz., three from each town, and 18 servants, of whom those of Lubeck are bravely dressed in red with bands of yellow and white satin, and with these words on the sleeve: *Si Deus pro, nobis, quis contra nos?* Those of Hamburg are more simply dressed in black with the motto, *Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris*. They have not yet had audience of the King, perhaps waiting for the doctor, whom the said king has at Lubeck, who is to come by land, and, as some think, not without speaking with those of Bremen and other confederates. The cause of their coming is still hidden. I have been given to understand that the King entreated them to come, assuring them of great profit; and it is thought that among other things he will treat of commercial intercourse in case his subjects be forbidden to resort to your dominions, of which he is a good deal in doubt. Perhaps also he invited them to excite the jealousy of the Flemings and a fear that they would lose their trade. I expect those of Lubeck will treat somewhat of the affairs of Denmark. Those of Hamburg [323] I am told made some difficulty in coming, and one who is familiar with them informs me they reckon on their return to pass through Flanders towards the Queen.

I have not ceased since Whitsun Eve to solicit an answer to my communications with the Council, and for a licence to visit the Queen, for which she daily urges me, but as yet I have had no success. Cromwell gave my man to understand some days ago that what I desired was very proper, but it was a question of trusting ladies (*mais les dames estoient de croyre*). Afterwards Cromwell sent word to me that he would come and speak to me, but he forgot this as well as other things, and I sent my man to remind him that the duke of Norfolk and he had to speak with me about the matters I was soliciting, and also about certain letters that the King had received from Spain. This conference was to have been yesterday, but owing to some business that had occurred, they sent to beg that I would have patience for two or three days. During these delays the Queen has had little rest, for the King has lately sent messengers to her to make the ladies about her swear, with instructions in case of refusal to bring them away prisoners. This the commissioners would have performed altogether if it had not been for the difficulty of taking so many ladies away against their will, besides that they were moved with pity not to leave the Queen alone, who implored them most lamentably not to proceed with such severity until they had informed the King; and with this view they arrived two days ago in Court. I do not know what commands they will receive.

About 10 months ago I sent the Queen a protestation that she was to forward to the Princess for her to sign. This I thought had been done long ago; otherwise I would have seen to it well; but lately the Queen, despairing of an opportunity of getting it signed, sent it back to me, and I have found means to get her signature, as your majesty will see. It is inconceivable what pains the said Princess has taken with her incomparable and angelic wit to pass the said protestation and the like, and to divert the attention of the guards about her.

I am informed by a person of good faith that the King's concubine had said more than once, and with great assurance, that when the King has crossed the sea, and she remains *gouvernante*, as she will be, she will use her authority and put the said Princess to death, either by hunger or otherwise. On Rochford, her brother, telling her that this would anger the King, she said she did not care even if she were burned alive for it after. The Princess quite expects this, and thinking that she could not better gain Paradise than by such a death, shows no concern (*na fait cas du monde*), trusting only in God, whom she has always served well and does still better now. Having spoken to the Queen, by her advice I

will make remonstrances; but I know not if they will do any good.

Begs pardon for repeating some things, to which he is constrained by the importunity of many good persons inclined to the Emperor's service. If his majesty do not see to affairs here, there will be no remedy after by reason of this sect, which begins to increase. The King expects that it will secure the loyalty of his people against your majesty, and also conciliate the favor of Germany, especially of maritime cities like Lubeck; and though he has no right, he will always be able to extort from his subjects whatever he pleases, and will excite in France and Germany as much opposition to you as possible. Even if your majesty were to show yourself satisfied with all he has done, I do not believe he would give up these intrigues, both for envy and for the doubt he always entertains that at last he will meet with the reward he merits. And these people think that the true bridle to keep France and Germany steady would be to take action here.¹ It was thus that the [324] Emperor Maximilian overcame his two competitors, as shown by the chronicles of this kingdom, which, in the state in which things are now, they say would be as easy to conquer as could be; for great and small are only waiting for the least opportunity to declare themselves in favor of your majesty, the Queen and Princess, of whose life there is great fear otherwise. You could not believe the hundredth part of the vexation of all this kingdom, except some of the new sect, at the delay of a remedy, and the reproaches I have had for it from innumerable quarters. This I have ventured to repeat that you may not imagine that the new oaths have altered the disposition of the people.

The archbishop of Canterbury, reserving to himself the determination, which he promises to declare within a year, whether there be any purgatory, whether it be well to pray to saints or worship them, whether it be lawful for priests to marry, and whether pilgrimages be meritorious, has forbidden by public command any preacher meanwhile to make any mention of these articles in his sermon, either for or against. This is only a preparation for the work of the coming Parliament, in which the King intends to take the goods of all the churches; which he has not yet ventured to propose only that he might not attempt too many dangerous things at once. London, 23 June 1534.

Fr., pp. 6. From a modern copy.

¹ “que la vraye bride pour arrester la France et l’Alemaigne et les garder de ruer seroit de pouvoir (pourvoir?) yci, et par tel moyen l’empereur Maximillian supedicts ses deux compediteurs comme le contiennent les croniques de ce royaulme.”