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29 May [1535]
R. O.
St. P. vii. 604.

777. SIR GREGORY DA CASALE TO CROMWELL.

Wrote on May 22 about the consecration of cardinals, and among them the bishop of Rochester. On recovering sufficiently to go out, went to all the friendly cardinals, and remonstrated with them for offending the King and kingdom in this way; for the bishop of Rochester was sticking to his opinion against the King, from vainglory, for which cause he was in prison and condemned to death, and was also in extreme old age, and unequal to the purpose for which they thought him apt. Expressed the greatest indignation, so that the whole city talked of it, and the Pope sent for him. Spoke even more strongly to His Holiness, telling him that he had never made a graver mistake. He tried to show that he had acted with a good intent. The French king had written that he was very desirous that the king of England should be satisfied in his marriage case; and he thought he would be doing what was pleasant to the King, and providing a fit instrument for treating of these matters. [292]

Another reason was that a certain constitution orders cardinals of all nations to be present at a council, and so he thought it necessary to make some Englishman a cardinal. **He had not the bishop of Rochester more in his mind than any one else, but when he heard in what estimation his books were held in Germany and Italy, and how Campeggio and others praised him, it seemed a good thing to make him a cardinal, and he thought the King would be pleased.** Replied to each of these, and advised him not to send the red hat without hearing from England. The Pope begged him to use all means to excuse the act to the King. Rome, 29 May 1535. *Signed.*

Lat., pp. 2. Add. Sealed.

R. O.

2. English abstract of the above.
Pp. 2.