

Thomas More on the Blindness of Princes; Report by Eustace Chapuys to Emperor Charles V

Calendar of Spanish State Papers , #683, 11 April 1531. ¹

--London, 11th April [1531]

...The Venetian ambassador has newly strengthened by some words that escaped him my very firm belief that these people desire above all things the arrival of the Turk in Germany. **The Chancellor himself complained some days ago to one of my secretaries, in a very piteous tone, of the blindness of those princes who refused to assist Your Majesty against so cruel and implacable an enemy** , and upon my secretary observing that perhaps those very princes, seeing Your Majesty engaged in the repulse of the Turk, intended to engage in some undertaking by themselves, or solicity and procure something else, the Chancellor replied that there was no actual danger of that on the part of this country at least, for there were no preparations or power to do so; which statement I really believe to be the fact, since their will is evidently stronger than their power.

Signed: "Eustace Chapuys."

¹ Great Britain. Public Records Office. *Calendar of State Papers, Spanish* . London: Longmans and Co., 1882.