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29 June [1529]
Theiner, p. 585

5732. CAMPEGGIO TO SALVIATI.

Yesterday the fifth audience was given. While the proceedings were going on as usual, owing to the Queen's contumacy, the bishop of [2539] **Rochester made his appearance, and said, in an appropriate speech, that in a former audience he had heard the King's Majesty discuss the cause, and testify before all that his only intention was to get justice done, and to relieve himself of the scruple which he had in his conscience, inviting both the judges and everybody else to throw some light on the investigation of the cause, because on this account he found his mind much distressed and perplexed. If, on this offer and command of the King, he (the Bishop) did not come forward in public and manifest what he had discovered in this matter after two years' most diligent study,¹ —therefore, both in order not to procure the damnation of his soul, and in order not to be unfaithful to his King, or to fail in doing the duty which he owed to the truth, in a matter of such great importance, he presented himself before their reverend Lordships to declare, to affirm, and with forcible reasons to demonstrate to them that this marriage of the King and Queen can be dissolved by no power, human or divine; and for this opinion he declared he would even lay down his life. He added that the Baptist in olden times regarded it as impossible for him to die more gloriously than in the cause of marriage, and that as it was not so holy at that time as it has now become by the shedding of Christ's blood, he (the Bishop) could encourage himself more ardently, more effectually, and with greater confidence, to dare any great or extreme peril whatever. He used many other suitable words, and at the end presented the book which had been written by him on this subject.**

After him the bishop of St. Asaph's (Standish), of the Minorite order, spoke, and expressed nearly the same opinion, but with less polished eloquence, and in briefer terms; and he offered several comments. Then followed a Doctor, called the dean of the Arches, president (*praefectus*) of the court of Canterbury, who alleged various arguments from the sacred canons in favour of the marriage, which were not very cogent.

The cardinal of York replied to all of them, that, in the first place, he was surprised they had attacked them (the Legates ?) without warning; next, that they stood and sat there to hear all things connected with the cause, and to do for the sake of justice whatever the divine wisdom should inspire them to do.

The proceedings then continued. On account of her non-appearance the Queen was pronounced contumacious; but she was cited to appear once for all. They determined to examine witnesses respecting her, and the articles were exhibited which had been responded to by the King, who, by his proctor, left his response among the records (*apud acta*). Accordingly the witnesses were examined at great length.

This affair of Rochester was unexpected and unforeseen, and consequently has kept everybody in wonder. What he will do we shall see when the day comes (*alla giornata*). You already know what sort of a man he is, and may imagine what is likely to happen. But as the messenger will not stay, and I am much occupied, I will write no more. London, 29² June, 1529.

Ital.

1 The sentence here takes another turn.

2 In Theiner this letter is placed between two others, dated 24 and 25 June.