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16 Mar. [1530]
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270. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR.

The bishop of Lincoln and an Italian cordelier, who went recently to Oxonia (Oxford), to obtain for the King the seal (*sceaul*) of that university, were driven away by the women of the place and pelted with large stones. **The King, in order to punish this act of violence and prevent any more serious outbreak, also to intimidate the doctors of that university who dispute his opinion, has sent thither the duke of Sufforcq (Suffolk), and the treasurer of the Household,¹ charging them that where they could not meet the argumentations of the contrary party with reason, they should pay them with ready [476] money. The Duke has committed the said women to prison, and is eagerly following up the King's commission in order to obtain the seal by bribes or threats, as it may be.**

I hear, and there is much talk about it, that recently at Cantabrigie (Cambridge), whilst the point was being discussed whether the university doctors should give in their opinion as well as the seal in the King's favour, as they had been urged to do, there was a squabble and a fight, six or seven of them being left dead on the spot. This I have on sufficiently good authority, but still, as it is only a report, and I have no letters in confirmation of it, either from the place itself or from Court, I do not vouch for its truth. If the fire, however, should be thus lit, there will be hereafter more harm done and more execrable deeds perpetrated than the parties immediately concerned in the affair foresee. **There can be no doubt, as I have already informed Your Majesty, that the King, by fair means or foul, will at last wring consent from the English universities, but there still remains that of Paris, which is said to have the privilege of the Apostolic See, and to be in great difficulty as to its decision; the fear is that the king of France, in fulfilment of the promise made here by his ambassador, will by "fas aut nephas" induce that university also to give her seal, and by threats or promises through those already on their side gain over many more, oblige their opponents to absent themselves, and then bring about a unanimous decision in favour of this king. To prevent which it would be well if the Emperor would represent to the king of France that he must refrain from giving any but strictly legal help to the king of England, for that, if this cause should be publicly disputed, any tampering with those who have written on the King's side will be brought to light. And also because the Queen has innumerable adherents, who fear to commit their opinions to writing until compelled to do so, it would be well that the Pope should issue a brief to the said university, commanding that this cause be brought forward for public disputation, and laying under sentence of excommunication any who should fail to speak the exact truth concerning it.** Were this done, there is no doubt, I am told, that the case would be settled as desired.

The Cardinal has not yet gone to York, probably he does not wish to remove so far from the Court, as he would then have less facility for watching his opportunity and returning to it, the hope of which he has not yet relinquished, as I gather from his physician who came the other day to speak to me about a pension which the Cardinal still holds on the bishopric of Pallance (Palencia) in Spain. The earl of Childara (Kildare), first among the Irish nobles, who has been so long a prisoner in the Tower, is soon to be set at liberty, with permission to return to Ireland. The Queen is at Vinsor (Windsor) with the King, treated as usual. The duke of [477] Norfolk has been ill of late, suffering from neuralgia (*ung mal de teste*), which has become almost chronic with him; his eldest daughter, the wife of the Seigneur d'Alby (Derby), died yesterday of the plague at a house near here, belonging to her husband; it will be one of the greatest blows the Duke has ever received.

¹ "Aussi le tresorier de l'Hostel avec charge que les arguments contraires que ne se pourroient payer par rayson se paient è beaulx deniers contens (*sic* comptauts).

There is a talk here of lowering the value of gold and reforming the coinage of that metal, which for some time has been of very bad alloy, as is the case with the rest of the coinage in this country. There is also a report that Parliament, which was to have been re-assembled on the 22nd of April, will be further prorogued. The King, as I am told, wished to do this on his own authority and without formality; but it appears that the consent of Parliament itself is required

Much anxiety is here felt about the object and result of this present mission. A rumour has been purposely spread that the embassy goes at Your Majesty's request, but in my opinion this is only for the sake of increasing their own importance, or satisfying their neighbours.

The King has heard from the auditor of the chamber (Ghinucci) since the coronation; but as the King has said nothing about it I conclude that the intelligence is not agreeable. Jehan Jocquin has not been at Court since the day of the examination of the "fleur de lis." He can have but little business on hand just at present, for he is setting out on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Vouchinguan (Walsingham).

I had heard that the King had only given one half of his [French] pension towards the ransom [of the sons of France], but the said Jocquin assures me that he has actually given, or taken off the King's debt to him, 100,000 crs., which comes to the same thing.—
London, 16th March 1530.

Signed: "Eustace Chapuys."

Addressed: "A l'Empereur."

Indorsed: "From the ambassador in England, xvi. March. Received at Mantua on the 15th April."

French. Holograph. pp.