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16 Sept. [1530]
S. E. Rom. L. 849,
f. 102.
B.M. Add. 28,581,
f. 126.

429. BARON DEL BORGHO, PAPAL NUNCIO IN ENGLAND, TO CLEMENT VII.

Having asked the king of England to help in the enter-prize against the Turk, he replied that he did not believe the Infidel could do much mischief, and he adduced as an [719] argument that the Emperor had not said a word about it at the Diet. The King, moreover, complained of His Holiness who, he said, had revoked the legates appointed at his request, committed the cause to the Rota, and then sent the inhibition to the Queen. He threatened that unless the case were committed to the archbishop of Canterbury or to "tutti li collegii de le chiese d'Inghilterra," he was determined to go on, for he knew His Holiness had promised the Emperor to give sentence in the case in favour of the Queen. Proposed to him to have two judges elected by him and two by the Queen; but he was not satisfied with this arrangement, and on Borgo proposing that the Pope should name a fifth, the King said that if it came to that, he would prefer to have the fifth elected by the king of France, who was related to the Emperor, and a friend of his, **but that in nowise could he agree to the cause being judged out of his kingdom.*** The discussion was prolonged almost until night, and both were talking about other things, when the King desired him (Borgo) to discuss the matter with the duke of Norfolk and Dr. Stephano (Stephen Gardiner). On doing so, the Duke spoke much about his devotion to the Holy See, and how he had always stood and would in future stand by the Clergy (*le cose di prete*), but that whereas his master had distinctly declared his will more for one thing than for the other, he was bound to support him, and that the King would never consent to have the cause judged out of the kingdom, &c. The King after this made the same statement, and said he had prorogued Parliament (*la dieta*) that was to have met in England on the 2nd of October, for 20 days longer, after which, if no answer came, he would act for himself.

On the subject of the Florentines the King owned having written in their favour, but said that it was done at the instigation of other parties. He did not particularly wish for an English cardinal, but recommended the Auditor of the Apostolic Chamber (Ghinucci) and Casale.

His (Borgo's) opinion is that the cause ought not to be proceeded with if the King promises to remain inactive, for the duke of Norfolk assured him the other day, as if it came from himself—not from the King—that he would stake his existence that if nothing was done at Rome his master would not proceed with the case in England.

Let this be a secret, but he (Borgo) imagines that a suspension of the cause for ever (*perpetuamente*) on condition however, of one of the parties giving notice one year or six months before might prove a good expedient. The King, however, disapproved of the matter being remitted to the General Council.

Another expedient: His Holiness might also endeavour to bring about an interview between the King and the Emperor, and get the former to agree to the cause being committed to the Rota. [720]

Hears that the King has asked that the duke of Orleans should go to Flanders on the plea of matrimony.—London 16th September 1530.

Italian. Contemporary copy.