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509. EUSTACE CHAPUYS TO THE EMPEROR.

The continuation of the rumour, now prevailing for some time, that in the ensuing Parliament, which is to resume its labours at the feast of the Purification of our Lady, this king intends proposing some measure respecting his divorce, and also the great annoyance the Queen experiences at her cause being so long delayed, have induced her to write to Your Majesty, and to pray that you will be pleased to intercede in her favour with the Pope, and incline His Holiness to move in her case, as he promised on the reception of Miçer Mai's memorandum, at which my own secretary was present. [818]

The Queen further prays that her suit be proceeded with at once, without further delay, as otherwise no good can result to her, but on the contrary, as Your Majesty may judge by the duplicate of the Queen's letter to the Pope [here enclosed]. On the subject of this letter I have dwelt more fully in one of my former despatches, as have also Miçer Mai and the Nuncio, the latter of whom has now confirmed all statements in his letter to the Pope, of which a copy is also enclosed.

It is said that every exertion is being made here to prepare all matters against the meeting of this Parliament, and there was also a talk of having some book in favour of the King written and printed, that people might examine the matter for themselves.¹

Eight days ago the dean of the chapel (Richard Sampson) as king's proctor (*procureur*) in this cause, appeared officially before the archbishop of Canterbury's chancellor, and presented eight different documents, which he required should be copied, and put into an authentic, judicial, and probative form. These were the opinions of as many universities in this matter of the divorce, namely, two from Paris—one from the Faculty of Theology, and the other from the Canonists—the remaining six being from the universities of Thoulouse, Orleans, Burges (Bourges), Bolongne (Bologna), Padua, and Pa via. I should rather think that instead of the book which they intend printing, it would be better for them to publish the opinions of those universities, for after all they cannot be so easily refuted, and the people will rely on their authority with more confidence.

Should they do so, the best plan, in my opinion, would be to get the attestation of the votes in favour of the Queen at Paris, and the opinions of such universities as have decided against the King, published likewise. Also to print and circulate the best books written on the subject, as has already been done in Spain with that of the bishop of Rochester (Fisher). Some people thought that the good bishop, for fear of the King's displeasure, would have been annoyed at this, but as the work has been printed without his knowledge, he does not seem to mind it much, from which I conclude that he will not dislike to see in print the other two treatises he has since written on the subject. I have accordingly written to Miçer Mai to have them printed as soon as possible, and send me several copies to distribute among the people here, with due solemnity and as the case may require, before the opening of Parliament.

A few days ago the duchess of Norfolk sent the Queen a present of poultry (*volaille*), and with it an orange, inside of which was a letter from Gregory Casale, a copy of which I deem proper to send to Your Majesty.² The Queen imagines [819] that the Duchess has sent her this present and letter of her own accord, and out of the love and affection she bears her, but I am afraid that all has been done with the Duke's knowledge; at all events this seems to open a way for the Queen to communicate more freely [with her friends] and disclose her plans to the Duchess, for which purpose it has been deemed expedient to dissemble better in future.

Eight days ago the King ordered the Cardinal to be brought here [to London], on

1 "Et se parloit [il] de faire ecrire et imprimer quelque livre en faveur du Roy affin que le peuple en fust abbeurre (abbreué?)"

2 Not in the bundle.

hearing which, he abstained from food for several days, much preferring (as it is said) to die in this manner than of a more ignominious and dishonourable death, of which he has some fears. In consequence of which abstinence from food he has been taken ill on the road, and is not yet arrived. There is a report that a chamber has been already prepared for him in the Tower, the same one that the duke of Buckingham once occupied.

Many reasons are assigned for the Cardinal's arrest, but all are mere conjectures.

I was told by a gentleman that a short time ago the King was complaining to his Council of something which had not been done according to his wish, and that he exclaimed in great wrath that the Cardinal was a very different man from any of them (*tres tous*) for conducting State matters, and that after repeating the same words twice over he left the Council room in disgust. Since then the Duke, the Lady [Anne], and her father (Sir Thomas Boleyn), have never ceased plotting against the Cardinal, especially the Lady, who has wept and wailed, regretting her lost time and honour, and threatening the King that she would go away and leave him, so much so that the King had enough to do to quiet her, and though he begged and intreated her most affectionately, and even with tears in his eyes, not to forsake him, nothing would satisfy the Lady short of the Cardinal's arrest. The pretext for the arrest is said to be that he had written to Rome asking to be reinstated in his ecclesiastical possessions, and to France also for support and credit, and that he was actually beginning to resume his former habits of pomp and splendour, and trying to corrupt the people. This last accusation they may perhaps prove, since they have got his physician into their hands, for I hear that the day after he came here he was taken to the house of the duke of Norfolk, and there treated and entertained like a prince, which clearly shews that he (Agostini) has been singing to the right tune, as the Cardinal's enemies wished.

Jehan Jocquin (Giovanni Gioachino da Passano) would not say a word about this when closely interrogated by the Papal Nuncio; but he told the Venetian ambassador (Venier) that by the physician's own confession the Cardinal had solicited the Pope at Rome to excommunicate the King, and lay an interdict on his kingdom, unless he immediately dismissed the Lady [Anne] from Court, and treated the Queen with [820] proper respect. By which means he (the Cardinal) hoped to cause a rising throughout the country, and in the midst of the confusion seize again the reins of government. The said Jocquin, in his conversation with the Venetian ambassador, did certainly find great fault with the Cardinal for his malignity and bad conduct in this case; but it is to be doubted whether this was not done to hide his own disappointment and annoyance at the arrest, or out of real spite against him for his opposition to this second marriage, on which alone depend the credit and favour the French now enjoy at this court.

It would seem, however, that the physician, when interrogated, denied having any understanding or acquaintance with me; for otherwise the Duke, who is a bad dissembler, would have spoken out. He might also have summoned the man, who was the means of communication [between us], to whom the physician wrote, and through whom he received [my] answers; but up to this time the man has not been called upon to make any statement. Even if the physician should relate what passed between him and myself he could say nothing which could lay me open to accusation or even calumny.

Ample information has been received from France touching what passed about the convocation of the General Council. Jehan Jocquin, I am told, said to one of his intimate friends, who repeated it to the Papal Nuncio, that the king of France would certainly raise difficulties about it, especially with regard to the places named for its assembling; but I made no further inquiries about it, sure as I am that Your Majesty will receive better and more detailed information from that country.

On his passage through Milan, on his return from Bologna, the earl of Vulchier (Wiltshire) must have given the Duke, (Francesco Maria Sforza) some hope of being able to raise here (in England) a loan of 50,000 crs.; for it appears that eight days ago the Earl informed the Milanese ambassador here (Scarpinello?) that he could not fulfil his promise, for the King himself was in want of money for the pay of the men he keeps in Ireland, and

who, as I wrote to Your Majesty, do not exceed 500 in number.

A deputation from Scotland has also arrived within the last few days; but I have not yet been able to ascertain their object in coming. Some suspect that a promise has been made, or some hope held out, of a marriage of the young King (James) with the Princess (Mary), as it may divert the Scotch from any project of alliance with Your Majesty or any other power. I hope, however, to be able to give Your Majesty more certain information in my next despatch.

The Lutheran merchants here arrested, as I wrote in my last, have undergone no further punishment than to be led [821] through some of the streets of this city in their mitred caps, and with placards³ on [their breasts and shoulders], carrying certain books [in their hands] which they themselves were to burn publicly. I cannot see what good is to result from all this, since it now appears that for one who spoke about these matters before there are now a hundred who discourse of them freely and without fear.

A Spaniard has lately been here, sent, as he says, by the Council of Castille. That the people may not suppose that he comes for Your Majesty's affairs, he gives out that he is sent by the "Order of Mercy" and is to apply for licence to preach in this country the bulls of the said Order for the redemption of captives, and to appoint this king commissioner thereof at his pleasure with one-third of the produce throughout this kingdom.

Whilst I was writing this a good and trusty man called and said to me that he had been informed by the prothonotary of the archbishop of Canterbury (Cranmer) that the King not only wished to have a copy of the documents above referred to, but also to have them translated into the English language and attested, and that the earl of Vulchier (Wiltshire) had requested him in the King's name to make the said translation, and so shape the text by enlarging it wherever it might seem desirable, that the conclusions and papers [of the universities] should turn entirely to the King's advantage. This and other circumstances, which I omit, will give Your Majesty an idea of their way of proceeding in this matter.

Signed; "Eustace Chapuys."

French. Holograph partly in cipher, pp. 5.

3 "Avec leur mitres et escripteaux" says the original, which I take to be the *sambenito* or garment usually worn in Spain by those condemned by the Inquisition on their being marched to the stake.