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105. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.

Since my last letters, **the clergy have withdrawn the offer of money**, of which I wrote, because the King demanded that in case he or any of his allies made war they should be bound to advance the said moneys without waiting the said five years, and also because the King would not grant them what had chiefly induced them to make the gift, viz., the restoration of their old liberties and exemption from *prmunire*; and, thirdly, because the King declared to them the importance of the said law of *prmunire* to guard himself from being misunderstood; which law no person in England can understand, and its interpretation lies solely in the King's head, who amplifies it and declares it at his pleasure, making it apply to any case he pleases, the penalty being confiscation of bodies and goods. At last, after a good deal of negotiation, **the matter has been settled, that the King shall not press them for payment before the expiration of the said five years**, and that of the three demands of the clergy they should have that of the exemption, and nothing more.

Eight days ago the Nuncio brought the King a brief in answer to a letter from him to the Pope which was written in a very bad spirit. I do not send you a copy, as I am sure you will get one from Rome. The King did not read the brief at that time, reserving it till he had leisure to read it with his Council; so the Nuncio told him in part the substance of it, in order to enter upon his credence, which was the justification of his Holiness. I think the Nuncio was never better received nor feasted, either by the King or the others, than he then was; and among other agreeable speeches, the King [47] told him he knew the Nuncio had been advising the prelates of his realm not to consent to anything to the Pope's prejudice; but it was needless for him to have taken the trouble, for there was no intention of doing anything against his Holiness, whose authority he had always vindicated, and intended still to maintain, provided the Pope did not give him occasion to act otherwise. At this very time the King was treating to get something declared prejudicial to his Holiness which I will mention hereafter. The King also spoke of the disorder of the affairs of Germany, and of a present that had been brought him by a servant of the king of Hungary, of two camels, two Turkish horses, and two slaves; which present he esteemed highly, and apparently he wished it to be understood that it had been sent him by the said king of Hungary, "et toutesfoys ca este son azimiliere majeure." He also said he had received information from various quarters of the coronation of the king of the Romans, but that his Ambassadors in your Majesty's court had not written to him of it; so he supposed there was still something to say about it. Before the Nuncio saw the King, the duke of Norfolk, perhaps fearing that he would intimate to him something about the Queen's affair, reiterated to him several times what he had always said, that nothing would be done about it in the Parliament, and that they would not proceed therein in any wise, and he might safely trust his word for it. On the Nuncio's return, the Duke thanked him for the good office he had always done in what concerned his charge, begging him to continue, and informing him that a despatch had been sent to Rome from the court of France on the Queen's affair on the 29th ult., and that he expected good news thence shortly. He said, moreover, that the King had commanded an answer to be made to the brief for the convocation of the Council; that he thought it very advisable, provided the place was suitable; and that if he was not able to be personally present, he would send sufficient representatives.

The thing which has been treated to the Pope's prejudice is that **the clergy have been compelled, under pain of the said law of *prmunire*, to accept the King as head of the Church, which implies in effect as much as if they had declared him Pope of England. It is true that the clergy have added to this declaration that they did so only so far as permitted by the law of God.** But that is all the same, as far as the King is concerned, as

if they had made no reservation; for no one now will be so bold as to contest with his lord the importance of this reservation. This Act has very much astonished the Queen, who, seeing that the King is not afraid to commit such enormities, notwithstanding the promises which have been made to the contrary, which were only to lull suspicion, has no doubt that now the King's lady is as much delighted as if she had gained paradise. On the other hand, it seems that they are only keeping the Parliament until news come from France, meaning to proceed afterwards to the said affair. John Joquin must return shortly. La Guiche remains here, and is in the highest favor. The other day the King attended mass at Westminster in great triumph, accompanied by nearly all the nobility, and La Guiche was the only Ambassador called. He dined to day at the King's table, and with him the two Dukes and the young Marquis; which company has been with the King every time he dined in public during this Parliament, that is, three days in the week. The King also has caused La Guiche to be conducted to the place of the Parliament that he might see the solemn assembly, giving orders the day before that every one should be present at the reception of the said Ambassadors as honorably apparelled as possible. Notwithstanding all this it was but lately that, being escorted to dine at Court, he was afterwards countermanded, on account of some business which had overtaken the King; at which he was very much displeased, and told the Nuncio that the English showed very little regard for the reception given to their Ambassador in France, who was never forbidden to enter the King's chamber on account of any business whatsoever. London, 14 Feb.

Hol., Fr., pp. 7, from a modern copy.