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22 May [1531]  
Vienna Archives

**251. CHAPUYS TO CHARLES V.**

Fox, it is said, will go from France to Rome, where he carries many books touching the divorce, most of them written by the King. He is charged to show them to the French king, to obtain the approval of the university of France, and that the King there, being better informed, may employ greater importunity with the Pope.

**Four days ago the clergy of York and Durham sent to the King a strong protestation against the supremacy which he pretends to have over them. The province of Canterbury have done the same**, of which I send a copy to Granvella. The King is greatly displeased, still more because one of his couriers coming from Rome has brought him news that his Ambassadors there are afraid that the Pope will definitely quash the process before the vacation.

On Sunday, Stephen Colonna was at court, and on Thursday took his leave. The King praised him greatly for his conduct touching Florence, condemning [115] the captains for treason, without which the Pope could never have tyrannised there, and he taunted the Pope as usual. Colonna had as a present from the King a beautiful hackney, with two gilt flagons. If he had known more of Colonna's real thoughts the present would have been less.

I have been with the French ambassador at the Council touching the impost laid by the Londoners on merchants strangers, and but for our efforts the Londoners would have carried the day; for the King and his Council, considering the times, try greatly to please them; but I think half the tax will be abated. They are very civil to me, and yesterday the duke of Norfolk could not show me sufficient caresses; for after he had entertained me with many civil speeches, that you might know the great affection the King has for you, he said that when something was reported of you to the King that seemed a little unreasonable, he said at once he would [not] for anything have believed such a thing of your Majesty. The said Duke made a great to-do about these words, and, having repeated them three times, on the fourth he summoned the earl of Wiltshire, who was present when the King uttered them; and for this they referred to John Joachin, who was there. I merely replied that you could not suppose that the King would think or say anything else than was to be presumed of a good and virtuous prince and friend; and I was quite sure your Majesty would not give them or any others reason to think otherwise.

Refers to the efforts of La Guiche for the liberation of certain pirates, who immediately seized upon two Breton vessels. Yesterday Norfolk gave Joachin a little taunt. London, 22 May.

*Hol., Fr., pp. 3, from a modern copy.*