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XXV.—Copy of an Historical Document, printed by Machlinia, dated in 1475: communicated in a Letter to the President, from Sir Henry Ellis, Secretary

Henry Ellis

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XXV.—*Copy of an Historical Document, printed by Machlinia, dated in 1475 : communicated in a Letter to the President, from SIR HENRY ELLIS, Secretary.*

Read 4th March, 1847.

MY LORD,

British Museum, March 4th, 1847.

HERBERT, in his edition of Ames's *Typographical Antiquities*,^a at the end of the Account of the Books printed by Machlinia, the contemporary of Caxton, says,

“ A CHRONICLE OF ENGLAND,

“ Partly written, and partly printed, on paper and vellum ; was in the possession of the late John Anstis, Esq., Garter. It is a miscellaneous piece, and has printed in it, First, ‘The promise of Matrimonie.’ Second, ‘The Lettre annuelle port.’ Third, ‘The obligation of Nisi.’ Fourth, ‘Tharticles of the Convencion, bitwene the Frensshe King and the Duke of Austrice, late called duc of Burgoine.’ Quarto.”

Dr. Dibdin, in the later unfinished edition of Ames, copies this paragraph : adding that he was not able to enlarge the account.

In one of the old Royal Manuscripts in the British Museum, a perfect copy of the paper here alluded to is preserved : probably the only one now in existence. The whole of it is in Machlinia's type, printed, not in quarto, but in folio. It appears to have been a sort of manifesto announcing to the English public the terms of the Treaty of 1475, between Louis the Eleventh of France and our Edward the Fourth. That its date was contemporary with that of the Treaty there can be little doubt, inasmuch as it would have had no interest with those for whom it was designed, had it been printed at a later date. It seems unquestionably to be an earlier production of Machlinia's press, than any other specimen to which the year of printing is annexed. There is no heading of “A Chronicle of England,” nor does it belong to one.

The greatest interest, however, attaching to this paper is that it preserves the terms and circumstances under which an early marriage was proposed for Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Edward the Fourth with the Dauphin of France, (her who was afterwards courted by Richard the Third, and finally married to Henry VIIth. ;) and in case of her demise for her next sister the Princess Mary.

^a Vol. i. p. 115.

^b 17 D. XV. fol. 10.

Sandford says,

“ Elizabeth of York was born at Westminster, 11th Feb. 1466, and there christened in the Abbey with great solemnity, whom the said King first intended to bestow on George Nevil, Duke of Bedford, who was deposed from that title by Act of Parliament, anno 17 Edw. IV. She was afterwards promised in marriage to the Dauphin of France, and in the Court of France called Madame the Dauphin. Next she was wooed and courted by King Richard the Third, her unhappy uncle, after he had murdered her two brothers : but last of all most happily married to King Henry the VIIth.” ^c

The present paper is both an historical and a typographical curiosity.

I am, my Lord,

With great respect,

Your Lordship's faithful servant,

HENRY ELLIS.

The Promise of Matrimonie.

Loys by the grace of God Kyng of Fraunce, unto alle theym that thies present lres shall see gretynge. Be it knowen that betwene the most xpen Prince the King of Fraunce aforesayd, and the most noble Prince the Kyng of Englonde hys moost dere cousyn, true, entier, and pfitte amyte ys covenanted and ²cluded invyolably tendure from the date of thies presentes, duryng their bothe lyves. So that as long as they lyve, werre, batailles, and hostilittees betwixt theym, their realmes, countreies, and subgettes alweye shall ceasse, and with benivolence and frendlihode they shall recayve and entrete theym self and their subgettis. ¶ Item to thynvyolable observance of the seyd amyte betwyxt the seyd prynces, it ys pmysed, couvenaunted, accorded, and concluded, that their shalbe contracted and had a mariage betwene the right noble Prynce Charles the sone of the seid moost xpen Kyng of Fraunce, and the moost benyngne princesse my lady Elizabeth, doughter of the seyde most victorious kyng of England, whanne that they shall come to yeres of mariage. And that the same most xpen King of Fraunce shall conduyte and conveye, or do to be conveyed honorably the same Lady Elizabeth from the Realme of Englonde, for the solempnizacion of the same mariage, into the parties of Fraunce at the costes and

^c Genealog. Hist. p. 417.

charges of the same king of Fraunce, and over that he shall endowe her or do her to be endowed to the yerely rent of thre score thousand pound in Asshiete, after the custume of the realme of Fraunce. And that the same dower shall be assigned and yeven to the same lady assone as she shall come to yeres of mariage. And yf it fortune the same lady Elysabeth afore the pftytyng of the seyd contract as it is afore seid of the seyd matrymonye, that God defende, to decese, that than matrymonie shall be maad betwixt the seyd Prince Cherls and the most noble Princesse my Lady Marye, another of the sayd King of Englund doughters. ¶ Item the seyd Kyng of Fraunce shall cōveye her, or do her to be conveyed worshipfully from the realme of England into the partyes of Fraunce at hys propre and oonly costes and charges, and in semblable wise endowe her as it is before reherced. And to thentent that the seyd matrimonye as it is afore seyd without fayle shall be doon and aperfyted, the said moost mighty Prynces of Fraunce and England in the worde of a prince, and on theyr feythes, have pmysed, and either of them hath pmissid and bounden hym self to thapfytyn therof, and with al their powers to put therunto their helpyng handes, and with effect to employe unto the same their continuell labours. ¶ In witnesse of all whiche and singuler pmisses the sayd Kyng of Fraunce hath put to this present writyng, subscribed with his own hand, his grete seale. ¶ Yeven in the Citee of Amyas the xxix. day of August the yere of our Lord m.cccc.lxxv. And the xv. yere of the sayd Kyng of fraunces reign. beyng present at the sealyng ther, the Duke of Bourbon, the Bysshop of Euereux, Thadmyral of Fraunce, the Lord Lude governour of Dolphenale, the Lord Sainpere, the Lord Argenton, the Lord Bussage, and many other.

The Lettre of Annuelle Port.

¶ Lowys by the grace of God King of Fraunce, to all and euiche that thies presentes lettres shall see gretynge. We wull that alle men knowe, that we have graunted, pmysed, and obliged vs, and alsoo by these presentes we graunte, pmitte, and oblige us to pay, and really and with effect to delyver in the citee of London within Englund to the moost noble Prynce Edward, by the same grace Kyng of England, our derest cosyn, every yere duryng our bothe lyves l. thowsand scutes of gold, every scute beyng of the valour of xxxiii. grete blankes, under suche manere and fourme as here after foloweth. That ys to say, we shall paye and delyvere, or we shall doo to be payed and delyvered, to the same oure cousyn Kyng of Englund, in the citee of London, xxv. thousand scutes of gold of the forsayd valure and estymacion, in the feste of

Ester next commyng, and xxv. thowsand scutes of gold of the same estymacion and valure in the forsayd place in the feste of Saint Mighell tharchaungell than next folowing, and soo we shall pay and delyvere or do to be payed and delyvered yerely and from yere to yere unto our sayde cousyn, in the place and tymes afore sayde, duryng our bothe lyves l. thousand scutes of golde of the sayde valour at Ester and Mighelmas by equale porcion, as it ys before reherced : To the whiche payement trully, fermely, and contynuelly by vs duryng oure bothe lyues yerely, as ys beforesayd to be made, we pmytte, bynde, and oblige us by oure faith and in the worde of a Kyng, and by the holy Evangelistes by vs touched we bynde and oblige alsoo our heires, executors, and successours, oure realme and contreies, lordships, and all oure goodes that we nowe have and hereafter shall have, everiche of our subgettis and their goodes wheresoever they may be founde. And for the more sure obfuaunce and accomplyshyng of all and eueriche of the premisses we shall bynde vs under the peynes of the chambre apostolyke and by the obligacion of Nisi, And over this we promitte and bynde vs by these presentes that we shalle pcure and make the felishship and felowes of the banke de Medicys dewly and laufully to be bounden for the sayd fyfty thousand scutes, yerely and invyolably to be paied to the same oure cousyn of England, under suche maner and fourme as ys before reherced. The whiche their obligacion theruppon dewly made in wryting we shalle delyvere or doo to be really delyvered in England to the same moost noble Kyng of England before the feste of the Purificacion of our Lady next comyng. Or elles we shall purchase and obteyne at oure ppre costes and charge of our holy father the Pope a bull apostolyke sealed with lede, wher in by auctorite of the See apostolyke all and eueriche of thees premisses shalbe confermede vnder peynes of Interdytyng oure Realme, countreies, and lordshipes, and of cursyng oure owne persone yf we observe not and perfourme all and everiche of thees premisses vnder suche fourme as ys before reherced. And that bull soo by us purchaced we shalle delyvere or doo to be delyvered in England to oure sayde moost derest Cousyn Kyng of England before the sayd feste of the Purificacion of oure Lady next commyng. ¶ In witnesse and faith of all and eueriche of whiche pmisses we have doon to be sett to thees our present lres patentz subscribed with oure owne hand oure grete seale. Yeven in oure citee of Amyas the xxix. daye of the moneth of August the yere of our lord a thousand cccc.lxxv. and of oure Reigne the xv. ¶ Subscribed thus Lowys.

¶ There were present at this sealyng and assentyng to the same the Duke of Burbon, the Bisshop of Everoce, Thadmyrall of Fraunce, the Lord Lude governour of Dolyphye, the Lord Sainpere, the Lord Argenton, the Lord Bossage and many moo, a appereth in the sayd lettres patentz.

The Obligation of Nisi.

¶ In the name of God, Amen. By this present publike and autentyke instrument, Be it knowen to alle men that on the yere of our Lord a thousand cccc.lxxv. the viii. Indiccion, the xxx. day of the moneth of August, the v. yere of our holy father Syxt the iiiii., the Pope, in the citee of Amyas, on an high chambre within the Palais of the Bisshop of Amyas, the moost noble and moost Xp̃ian Prynce Louys, by the grace of God King of Franse, beyng personelly, of his benyngnite and of his free wille gave obedyence and submytted hym in alle these thynges that folowen unto the spirituall Courte of Amyas, and unto vs thofficiall of the right Reverend father in God John Bisshop of Amyas, & vnto our Jurisdiccion. And the same oure iurisdiccion to be used and exercised vpon hym concerning suche thynges as foloweth, well, lawfully, and duly proged, and before vs the seyd officiall beyng soo on this behalue his lawfull and competent Juge, and sytting in iuggement, being also present with us a notary apostolyke here subscribed, the sayd moost noble Prince Lowys knowlaged and confessed hym self lawfully to are and rightwysely to be obliged vnto the moost noble Prince Edward by the same grace Kyng of England to pay to the same King of England l. thousand scutes in the citee of London within England every yere at the termes of Ester and Michelmas, by equale porcion, as long as bothe the sayd princes of Fraunce and England shall lyve. The same Kyng Loys promised also to pay yerely the sayd l. thousand scutes to the same Kyng of England, at the sayd tymes and place as it is before reherced, vpon the peyne of the chambre apostolyke, and of all the censures of the Chirche, Renuncyng all such preuileges and benefices of the lawe as to hym belōged and apperteyneth or may apperteyne in that behalue. And over that the same Kyng Lowys required us the sayde officiall to gyve jugement of excōicacion ayenst hym, & than & there to acurs hym nowe as then and then as nowe yf he paied not yerely to the saide King of England the forsayde l. thousand scutes at the said tymes and place during their bothe lyves as it is before reherced; we therfore the sayde officiall, havyng God before oure heyres and sitting as juge & in juggement, seing the forsayde knowlage and confession of the sayde King Lowys, have monissshed & inioyned, and by these presentes monisshe and inioyne the same King Lowis that he paye or doo to be paidyerely and every yere during their bothe lyves, l. thousand scutes at the place and tymes before reherced, and that vpon peine of excommunicacion and cursyng, the whiche sentence and juggement of excommunicacion and cursyng we the forsayde officiall gyve and adjuge in this our writting apon & ayenst the sayde moost noble Prince Lowys Kyng of Fraunce, & hym doo acurs nowe as then and then as nowe if he

pay not or do to be paid every yere to the said Kynge of England l. thowsand scutes at the tymes and place aforesayde, and hym soo acursed denounce, woll denonce, and shall make to be denounced. ¶ In witnesse & pene of all and eueriche of thees premisses we the forsayde officiall have sette to this present publyke and autentyke instrument the seal of the spirituall court of Amyas and also oure private signet. And also have caused the Notarye apostolyke here under written to signe and subscribe the same. Yeven the yere Indiccion, moneth, the daye, and place as it ys here before wryten.

¶ And I, Johan Fabri, clerk of the Diocise of Amyas, publike as well by the auctorite apostolyke as imperiall Notarye, and also notarye and Scribe sworne of the spirituall and ordinarie Courte of Amyas, have been present whiles that all and everiche of these premisses were had, seid, and doon, and theyme sawe, hurd, and knewe soo had, seyd, and doon. And therfore to this present publyke and autentyke instrument, sealed with the seale of the sayd Court of Amyas, and with the signet of the sayd Officiall, I, the forsayd John Fabri, required, have sett myn vsed and accustomed apostolyke signe, and subscribed me with myn owne hand, in pue and witnesse of the trouthe of all and eueriche of thees premisses.

Tharticles of the convencion bitweene the Frenssh King and de Duc of Austrice late called Duc of Burgoyne.

¶ In the name of God, and the glorious Vyrgyn Mary, and of all the court celestial peas fynal, unyon, alyance, and benyvolence for ever more ys maad, promised and sworne betwene the King, my lord Daulphyn, the royalme, their londes, lordshippes, and subgettis, on the one partie, and my lord Maximylyan Duc of Austriche, my lord Duc Phelip and Damoyssel Margarete, their children, their londes, lordships, and subgettis on the other, by the whiche all maner rancours, hatereddes, and malyuolences, of eyther of the parties ayenst other ben put down and sette away, and al maner injuryes of dede and of wordes remytted and foryeuen, for gretter surtye of the sayd peas, traytye, and alyaunce of mariage is maad, promysed, ²sented, and accorded betwene my lord the daulphyn, only sone of the Kyng and heyre apparant to the Crowne, and my said damoyssel of Austrice, onely doughter of the decessyd my lord Duc Charles, whom God assoyle. And the sayd mariage shalbe ended and solempnysed, the sade damoyssel comen to age whan the same mariage shal be requyred of right.

¶ Item, that in the said traytye of pees the persone of my sayd ladye Margaret, duchesse of Burgoyne, wedowe, late wyf of my lord the Duc Charles, deceasid, is

comprised, and vnto her shalbe delyvered the hoole londes of chaucuns and of the perier in the londe of Burgoyne, and ther upon the King shal graunte vnto her his lettres patentes, accordyng unto the contene of the same that she had of the said Duc and ducesse.

¶ Item, in asmoche as the sayd ambassadours have maad requeste that for certeyn consideracion that they have shewed to the Kyngys folke that his plesure may be to comprise in the same traytye of peas the King of Englonde and the Duc of Britaygne.

¶ It is answered that Englissh men been in the treues with the Kyng, and that this trete toucheth them in no thyng; and as for the Duc of Bretaigne the King hath no werre with hym but peas fynal, & othe solempnly hath ben made betwixt them, the whiche the kyng wille kepe in his partie.

¶ And yet the Kyng and my sayd lord the Daulphyn auctorised and dyspended, for his yong age, in the presence of thambassadours & commissioners from the Kyng, shall swere solempnely vpon the precious body of our Lord upon the holy crosse and holy canon of the messe, to kepe and entreteygne this present traytye of peas & of maryage in his poyntes and articles, and never doo ne suffre to be doon in the contrarye by ony maner, weye, or mene that may be.

¶ And over thys the Kyng shal do be had the lettres & seales in pticuler of my lordes the Dukes of Orleunce, angenlesme, Burboon, Cardynal de Leon, Erle of Nevers, my lord of Beaugyen, & of Vendosme, as nyghest to the bloode subrogued and substytute in the royalme of the perys, tharchebysshoppys & Duc of Laon & of Langres, of the Bysshops and erles of Noyon, chaloys, Beauuouis pieres of Fraunce, the selles of the universite of Parys, of the townes, cities, and comynaltees of Parys, Roen, Orleunce, Tourney, Leon, Troies, Burdeaux, Rochell, Angiers, Poytiers, Tolouse, Rayns, Amyens, Babeuille, Monstereull, Therouaine, Aier, Saint Ouyntyns, Perone; Prelates and Nobles of the erldomes of Artoys and of Bourgoyne, to be delyuered vnto my sayd lord the Duc, & to the states of hys Countrees.