

4.

Notes from English libraries

by

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I. An unpublished letter of Justus Jonas.

During the fourth decade of the sixteenth century Henry VIII and his minister Thomas Cromwell made repeated efforts to come to an understanding with the Protestant princes of Germany¹. On January 1, 1536, an important English embassy, consisting of Edward Fox, bishop of Hereford, and Nicholas Heath, archdeacon of Stafford, arrived in Wittenberg and held a long conference with Luther, Melanchthon, Bugenhagen, Jonas and Cruciger, on the king's divorce, private masses and the celibacy of the clergy. The English probably represented to the reformers that their best friend in London was Thomas Cromwell, as indeed he was, though his motives were mainly political². Luther came to have a high opinion of Cromwell³ to whom he wrote on April 9⁴. Four days later Justus Jonas also wrote to the English minister, a letter which, as far as I know, has not yet been published, though it is registered in the Letters and Papers of Henry VIII., vol. x, part. i, no. 665⁵. The original, an autograph, is preserved in the British Museum, Harleian MS. 6989, p. 37, from which I now give it.

1) Cf. G. Mentz: Die Wittenberger Artikel von 1536. (Leipzig 1905.) W. Walther: Heinrich VIII. von England und Luther. (Rostock 1908.) Preserved Smith: Luther and Henry VIII. English Historical Review. No. 100. Pp. 656—669. (1910.)

2) R. B. Merriman: The Life and Letters of Thomas Cromwell. (Oxford 1902.) Vol. i. pp. 213—241. 294.

3) E. Kroker: Luthers Tischreden in der Mathesischen Sammlung. (Leipzig 1903.) No. 284.

4) Enders: Luthers Briefwechsel, x. 324.

5) G. Kawerau: Briefwechsel des Justus Jonas (Halle 1884) II. 376, note 2, mentions a facsimile to be found in a life of Erasmus. It is to be found in J. Jortin: Life of Erasmus. 2 vols. London 1858 to 1860, vol. ii. p. 751, and is the address of Jonas letter here given.

Justus Jonas to Thomas Cromwell.

Wittenberg, April 13, 1536.

G. et p. dei in Christo. Omnia quae reverendiss. Dmnus D. Eduardus Epus Heremordensis [!] Reverendus dominus Archidiaconus Nicolaus et doctor Barnes, in negotiis Religionis, cum Illustrissimo Electore principe nostro, ut regiae M. Legati egerint, et quomodo publice et privatim apud nos accepti sint, Magnifice Dne, intellegat v. mag. ex ipsorum narratione. Permagnum referre Reip. ut in hac causa tanta, ad reprimendam et infrigendam intolerabilem Roman. pontificis tyrannidem, et asserendam puram veritatem, serenissimus et potentissimus Rex Angliae et principes Germ. Evangelio faventes, concordibus sint voluntatibus et animis et ut suadeant quatenus omnino possint hoc tam difficile tempore *συνχοητισμον* docti et pii omnes facile vident. Si modo vestri eruditi et eccelentissimi [!] principis ministri dant operam, ut in praecipuis sanctae doctrinae articulis satis et vere congruamus, tunc, quantum animadverti in deliberationibus gravibus nostrorum, non dubito futurum esse, ut ad facienda et perficienda reliqua politici foederis eo facilius conspiremus. Si res ad synodum generalem deducta fuerit Angliae regnum florentissimum non defuturum ingeniis et doctis viris, et hoc saeculum nunc ejusmodi est, ut ipsorum temporum cursus, quasi improbus fluvius sit interrupturus spem impiam et consilia nefaria papae.

Nostram operam ad juvandam in hoc acerbo certamine causam Euangelicae veritatis Serenissimo regi promptissimam et deditissimam offerimus, et notitiam et amicieiam cum reverendissimo dno. Episcopo Edo. et magnificis R. M. legatis, ita colere et officio mutuae scriptionis conservare suadebimus ut speramus utrinque et ecclesiae et Reip., domino dante, hoc praefuturum. T. Mag. Nos Serenissimo Regi et Communem probatam literarum causam commendare dignetur. Dnus. Christus T. Mag. diu conservet. Data Vittembergae 4ta post dominicam palmarum anno dni. MDXXXVI. Tuae Magnificentiae

deditissimus

Justus Jonas doctor
p. Vittembergens.

[Address] Magnifico et praestantissimo viro D. Thomae Cromwello, sereniss. et potentiss. Regis Angliae consiliario, amico et patrono venerando, S.

II. Luther's Homer.

In a letter of March 29, 1523 Luther tells us that he once bought a Homer to become a Greek¹. This event is conjectur-

1) Enders, iv. 120.

ally placed by Enders and by O. G. Schmidt¹ in 1518 in which year Melanchthon was lecturing on the Iliad. This surmise was well made, for the very copy which Luther bought is now to be found in the library of J. E. Hodgkin, Esq., in London². It is³:
ΟΜΗΡΟΥ ΙΛΙΑΣ ΟΔΥΣΣΕΙΑ [Colophon]
 Venetiis in aedibus Aldi et Andreae Asulani Socri. M.D.XVII.
 Mense Junio. This copy has a note in Melanchthon's hand that it was given to him by Luther in 1519. It was afterwards used by him for his lectures and contains many marginal notes in his hand. It is interesting to observe that Luther makes quite frequent quotations from Homer during the first months of 1519⁴, but before and after that date hardly any.

III. Notes on Luther's Letters⁵.

To Enders No. 971 and 1117. Vol. v. pp. 229 and 412. An old manuscript of both these letters is to be found in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, No. 175. An English translation of both of them was printed at once by Henry VIII under the title:

A Copy of the Letters wherein the most redouted Henry VIII made answer unto a letter of Martin Luther and also a copy of Luthers Letter. [S. a. Colophon] Printed by Pynson. [1526.]

The English differs in several respects from the Latin, for example in giving the information that Luther's letter of September 1 was received by Henry on March 20.

To Enders No. 2311 (x. 227) and Enders-Kawerau No. 2789, note 3 (xii. 290). This letter of Luther's to Brück was apparently sent with the articles of Melanchthon from France to England at the desire of Thomas Cromwell. Cf. Cromwell to Gardiner, November 19, 1535, in Merriman: *Life and Letters of Thomas Cromwell*. i. 434. Cf. also *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, ix. Nos. 281, 299 &c.

To Enders No. 2379 (x. 324). Comparing this with the original in the British Museum, I find it is not quite accurately

1) *Luthers Bekanntschaft mit den alten Klassikern* (Leipzig 1883), p. 50.

2) Report of the Royal Commission on the MSS of J. E. Hodgkin. (London 1897.) Pp. 2, 5.

3) It is the one described by Panzer: *Annales Typographici*. (1800.) viii. p. 439. No. 844.

4) *Enders*, i. 370. 404. 480. *τὰς ἀνθρώπων ἀτασθαλίαις* (i. 370) is probably an allusion to *Odyssey* i. 33—34.

5) Other references on MSS in England may be found in Priebisch: *Deutsche Handschriften in England*. 1901.

given. The second sentence on Enders x. 325, line 4, should read:

Pro tuis vero amicissimis & suavissimis literis maximas ago gratias, & utinam, benedicente Christo, talis essem & in minimis, qualem t. d. me depinxerint.

To *Enders No. 2425 (xi. 22)*. There is a copy of this letter, in Melauchthon's hand, in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. MS. No. 119. 55.

To *Enders No. 2565 (xi. 294)*. There is a manuscript of this, dated December 2, in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. MS. No. 119. 45.

To *Enders-Kawerau No. 2773 (xii. 254)*. On this, cf. the letter of Cromwell to Mount and Paynell, March 22, 1539. Merriman, op. cit. ii. 202. He desires them to represent to the Elector of Saxony and the Landgrave of Hesse the desire of King Henry for a closer alliance.

5.

Fliegende Drachen 1533 und Heuschrecken 1541—1543.

Von

Otto Clemen (Zwickau i. S.).

Für Sonntag den 19. Oktober 1533 hatte Michael Stifel, Prediger in Lochau, den Weltuntergang und die Wiederkunft Christi prophezeit; der Tag verging jedoch, ohne dafs etwas Besonderes geschah¹. Bald darauf verbreitete sich von einem anderen Punkte deutschen Landes eine ähnlich beunruhigende und erschreckende Nachricht von einer wunderbaren Naturerscheinung, die manchem als Vorbote des Jüngsten Tages erschien. Wir haben darüber einen ausführlichen Bericht² von Martin Glaser, Prediger in Hilpoltstein³, an seinen Freund, den Nürnberger Form-

1) Köstlin-Kawerau, Martin Luther II, 323 ff. Flugschriften aus den ersten Jahren der Reformation III, Leipzig 1909, S. 266.

2) Er gehört zu der freilich erst in der zweiten Hälfte des 16. Jahrhunderts recht überhand nehmenden Wunder- und Schauerliteratur, über die Janssen, Gesch. des deutschen Volkes VI, 15. u. 16. Aufl., S. 450 ff. gehandelt hat.

3) Als „Frater Martinus Glaser de Nuremberga“ in Wittenberg 1506 immatrikuliert. Später Konventuale im Augustinerkloster in Nürn-