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**Oration "Mirabitur fortassis" of Pope Pius II
(September 1459, Mantua). 3rd version. (Orations of
Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 79)**

Michael Von Cotta-Schönberg

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(Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 79)

Oration "*Mirabitur fortassis*" of Pope Pius II (September 1459, Mantova). Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg

3rd version

2019

Abstract

When in October 1458 Pius II summoned the European powers to a congress on the projected crusade against the Turks, the big question was if enough of them would send representatives to the congress to make it an effective and even legitimate international forum of decision. At the formal opening of the congress on 1 June 1459, so few envoys from the powers had turned up that the pope had to postpone the work of the congress and wait for more embassies to arrive. Over the summer, a number of them actually turned up or letters were received confirming their later arrival. So, in preparation of the effective opening of the congress the pope held a meeting in the beginning of September 1459 where he presented a status of the actual and promised representation of the powers at the congress (the oration "*Mirabitur fortassis*"). And when the very important Duke Francesco Sforza arrived in Mantua some days later, followed by the Venetian ambassadors, the pope initiated the work of the congress with the grand oration "*Cum bellum hodie*".

Keywords

Enea Silvio Piccolomini; Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini; Æneas Silvius Piccolomini; Pope Pius II; Papa Pio II; Renaissance orations; Renaissance oratory; Renaissance rhetorics; 15th century; 1459; Crusades against the Turks; Wars against the Turks; Congress of Mantua

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Foreword

In 2007, I undertook a project of publishing the Latin texts with English translations of the orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II. Altogether 80¹ orations (including papal responses to ambassadorial addresses) are extant today, though more may still be held, unrecognized, in libraries and archives.

At a later stage the project was expanded to include ambassadors' orations to the pope, of which about 40 are presently known.

I do not, actually, plan to publish further versions of the present volume, but I do reserve the option in case I – during my future studies - come across other manuscripts containing interesting versions of the oration or if important new research data on the subject matter are published, making it appropriate to modify or expand the present text. It will therefore always be useful to check if a later version than the one the reader may have previously found via the Internet is available.

I shall much appreciate to be notified by readers who discover errors and problems in the text and translation or unrecognized quotations.

12 September 2019

MCS

¹ 81 orations, if the "*Cum animadverto*" is counted as a Piccolomini-oration, see oration "*Quam laetus*" [18], Appendix

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II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Context

When in October 1458 Pius II summoned the European powers to a congress on the projected crusade against the Turks, the big question was if enough of them would send representatives to the congress to make it an effective and even legitimate international forum of decision. At the formal opening of the congress on 1 June 1459, so few envoys from the powers had turned up that the pope had to postpone the work of the congress and wait for more embassies to arrive. Over the summer, a number of them actually turned up or letters were received confirming their later arrival. So, in preparation of the effective opening of the congress the pope held a meeting in the beginning of September 1459 where he presented a status of the actual and promised representation of the powers at the congress (the oration "*Mirabitur fortassis*").

Though promised, the very important embassies from the emperor and the French king were still absent and only arrived towards the close of the congress. The embassies from England and Scotland never turned up.

But when the very important Duke Francesco Sforza arrived in Mantua some days later, followed by the Venetian ambassadors, the pope initiated the work of the congress with the grand oration "*Cum bellum hodie*".

2. Themes

The oration gives a systematic, geographically structured survey of the actual or promised representation of the European powers at the Congress of Mantua.

It is worth noting the pope's conception of the political structure of Christian Europe, containing the following areas ("nations"):

- Spain, consisting of the kingdoms of Castile, Portugal, and Aragon.
- Gaul, consisting of the Kingdom of France and the duchies of Burgundy, Bretagne, and Savoy.
- Germany, consisting of the Holy Roman Empire, with its many duchies and ecclesiastical and secular principedoms.

Outside the Holy Roman Empire, the four kingdoms of Denmark, Bohemia, Poland, and Hungary. Pius did not mention Norway and Sweden, though he was perfectly aware of their status as kingdoms, probably because the King of Denmark was also King of Norway and that time also King of Sweden. Similarly he had not mentioned the various Mediterranean

kingdoms like Mallorca that were under the crown of Aragon. It is noteworthy that Pius lists the kings of Denmark, Bohemia and Poland after the German emperor but before the German princes, thus possibly indicating that he considers these kingdoms to somehow belong to the German sphere.

- Brittainia, containing the two kingdoms of England and Scotland. Ireland was not mentioned.
- Italy, comprising firstly the Papal States, and secondly the Kingdom of Naples. Here the text unfortunately breaks off, but it would be interesting to know how the pope conceived of the status of the various states in Central and Northern Italy.

3. Date, place, audience, and format

The oration was delivered before the arrival of the Duke of Milan on 17 September, and during the Duke of Cleve's stay in Mantua, since it is known that the duke arrived on 13 August,^{1 2} was present at the meeting where the oration was delivered³, and that he left some days before the arrival of the Duke of Milan on 17 September.⁴ In the oration Pius also mentioned the quite recent ("nuperrime") death of the Sieneese ambassador, Giovanni Mignanelli, which occurred on 20 August, so the oration must have been held after that date.

A date in September, close to the initial session on 26 September appears more likely than a date in August.

The audience generally consisted of the participants in the congress who were present in Mantua at the time.

The venue was probably the cathedral of Mantua where the sessions of the congress were held.

¹ Märtl, p. 344

² CO, III, 10, 7; 11, 1 (Meserve, II, p. 41): *The Duke of Clèves was received with the greatest respect ... The next day Pius presided over a public consistory at which the bishop of Arras delivered an oration (the "Antea maxime pontifex")*

³ Sect. 5: *Before our eyes we see his noble nephew, Duke Jean of Cleve*

⁴ CO, III, 14, 5 (Meserve, II, p. 63): *Clèves was slightly ill when he left ... A few days later Francesco Sforza, duke of Milan, ... arrived at the congress. See also oration "Grave illis" (1459)*

4. Text¹

So far, the text of the oration – unfortunately missing the end - has only been identified in a single manuscript:

- Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
Ottobon. lat. 1170, ff. 319v-323v (**H**)

It has not been published previously.

The text is incomplete, lacking the last section on the Italian powers, following the passages on the Papal States and the Kingdom of Naples.

It probably derives from from the papal protonotary Gaspare da Volterra, who according to letters reproduced in the manuscript² directly before the text of the oration had been charged by the pope with producing the notarial account of the congress and its decisions. This may also have been the case with the oration “*Grave illis*”[80] (1459) which, too, is known only from this manuscript. A notarial origin appears to be supported by the form of the introduction to the oration: *Among the [ambassadorial] mandates, also the imperial mandate and afterwards the Sienese mandate were read to the assembly in the absence of any ambassadors.*³ *Therefore, Our Most Holy Lord decided to set forth the reasons for their absence to the assembly and to explain his good hopes for the coming proceedings, speaking nearly as follows (Verba igitur **ferme** in hunc modum fecit).*

Present edition

For principles of edition (incl. orthography) and translation, see *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, ch. 9-10.

The text is based on the BAV manuscript.

The pagination is from the BAV manuscript.

5. Sources

No direct or indirect quotations have been identified in this oration.

¹ For the textual transmission of Pius II's, see *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, ch. 5

² ff. 316r-318v

³ From the emperor and from Siena

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- *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*. Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg. 12 vols. 2019-2020

7. Sigla and abbreviations

H = Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Ottobon. lat. 1170

Abbreviations

CO = Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt* [1464]

HA = Eneas Silvius Piccolomini: *Historia Austriasis*. Teil 1: Einleitung von Martin Wagendorfer. 1. Redaktion ed. von Julia Knödler. Teil 2: 2./3, ed. Martin Wagendorfer. 2 vols. Hannover, 2009. (Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptores Rerum Germanicarum. Nova Series; 24)

HB = Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini: *Historia Bohemica*. Herausg. J. Hejnic & H. Rothe. 2 vols. Köln, 2005. (Bausteine zur slavischen Philologie und Kulturgeschichte. Neue Folge. Reihe B; 20)

MA = Pius II: *Orationes politicae et ecclesiasticae*. Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759

MPL = Migne, Jacques-Paul: *Patrologia latina*. 217 vols. 1841-1865

OO = Pius II: *Opera quae extant omnia*. Basel: Heinrich Petri, 1551 [2nd ed., 1571; Anastatic reprod. Frankfurt: Minerva 1967]

RTA = Deutsche Reichstagsakten

WO = *Der Briefwechsel des Eneas Silvius Piccolomini*. Hrsg. von Rudolf Wolkan. 3 vols. Wien, 1909-1918

Decretum = *Decretum magistri Gratiani*. Ed. Lipsiensis secunda. Eds. A.L. Richter & A. Friedberg. 2 vols. Leipzig, 1879

Epistolarium = Enee Silvii Piccolominei *Epistolarium Seculare*. Ed. A. van Heck. Città del Vaticano, 2007

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Reject = *Reject Aeneas, accept Pius : Selected letters of Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini (Pope Pius II)*. Intr. and transl. by T.M. Izbicki *et al.* Washington, D.C., 2006

II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Beatissimus dominus noster, quoniam inter mandata in medium allatum fuit imperiale mandatum ac postea mandatum Senensium sine aliquorum oratorum praesentia, causas eorum absentiae praesenti contioni aperiendas esse duxit, simulque futurarum rerum spem bonam auditoribus perhibendam esse existimavit. Verba igitur ferme in hunc modum fecit:

[1] {319v} Venerabiles fratres ac dilecti filii, mirabitur fortassis vestrum aliquis, quod cum in praesentiarum sit cognominatum mandatum carissimi in Christo filii nostri Friderici tertii, Romanorum imperatoris semper Augusti, hoc tamen in loco ejus orator adsit nemo, cujus rei causam vobis aperiendam duximus, ne hujusmodi absentiam minus recte – quod absit – interpretemini, simulque ut quod de rebus futuris nobis sperandum videatur accipiatis.

[2] {320r} Est enim Romanorum imperator Fridericus ad rem Christianam tutandam promptissimus, et jampridem, dum Senis ageremus - ut toti huic contioni notissima res est – suos ad nos oratores cum plenissimo mandato misit, quod ipsi modo cognominari audistis. Ejus autem oratores, si recte meministis, fuere Buricardus Salzeburgensis praepositus ac Johannes Hinderbachus praepositus Tridentinus. Horum alterum nos nostra de causa ad Caesaream majestatem remisimus, alterum corporis morbus hinc Veronam secedere compulit, ubi nunc instaurandae valetudinis causa moratur.

[3] Sed desunt praeterea nobis oratores Senenses, et quoniam nos secundum carnem illius civitatis cives fuimus, non ab re erit, si ipsi aliquid pro illis respondeamus. Erat in curia nostra nomine illius civitatis orator vir praestans Johannes Mignanellus jureconsultus atque sacri apostolici consistorii disertissimus advocatus, quem nobis loquentem atque ampla promittentem suae patriae nomine audistis. Hic nuperrime gravi morbo {320v} correptus ab humanis excessit. Absentiae igitur utriusque legationis haec vobis sit excusatio.

Among the [ambassadorial] mandates, also the imperial mandate and afterwards the Sienese mandate were read to the assembly in the absence of any ambassadors.¹ Therefore, Our Most Holy Lord decided to explain the reasons for their absence to the assembly and to express his good hopes for the coming proceedings, speaking nearly as follows:

[1] Venerable brothers and beloved sons, maybe some of you wonder why the mandate of Our beloved son in Christ Friedrich III, Roman Emperor and always August, was mentioned now, though he has no ambassador present here. We have therefore decided to explain the reason to you so that you will not interpret the absence incorrectly – God forbid.² We shall also use the opportunity to inform you of what to expect.

[2] Roman Emperor Friedrich³ is completely willing to protect the Christian cause, and while We were in Siena, he already – as this whole assembly knows – sent Us his plenipotentiary ambassadors, as you heard a little while ago. As you may remember, his ambassadors were Brochardus, Dean of Salzburg, and Johann Hinderbach,⁴ Dean of Trento. One of them We sent back to His Imperial Highness for a certain reason,⁵ the other one was compelled by illness to withdraw to Verona where he is now recuperating.

[3] We are also without ambassadors from Siena. Since we are – after the flesh – a citizen of that city, it will be appropriate if We Ourselves say something on their behalf. We had at Our court an ambassador from that city, the distinguished Giovanni Mignanelli,⁶ a jurist and most eloquent advocate of the Holy Apostolic Consistory, whom you yourselves have heard addressing Us and making large promises in the name of his country. Quite recently he fell ill and died.⁷

This is the excuse for the absence of two the legations.

¹ I.e. from the emperor and from Siena

² “quod absit”

³ Emperor Friedrich III (Habsburg) (1415-1493): Duke of Austria (Styria). Elected emperor in 1440, crowned emperor in 1452

⁴ Johann Hinderbach (1418-14783): Court official of Emperor Friedrich III. Bishop of Trento 1465

⁵ “nostra de causa”

⁶ Giovanni Mignanelli (-1459): Sienese jurist and university teacher. Ambassador of Siena to Pius II at the Congress of Mantua

⁷ 20 August 1459

[4] Nunc quid de rebus futuris sperandum videatur, caritas vestra diligenter attendat. Adsunt hoc locorum omnes ferme Christianorum potentatus auctoritatem in unam congregati. Nam ut ab ultima occidentali Europae plaga incipiamus, ibi est primo Hispaniensis natio, quae tribus Christianissimis regnis decoratur. In hac offert se primo nobile Castellae regnum cui rex nobilissimus Henricus nomine praesidet, armis atque viribus praepotens. Hujus oratores infra paucorum dierum spatium hic Mantuae excipiemus, quod etiam venerabilis frater noster episcopus Ovetensis illius regis nomine - ut audistis - amplissime affirmavit.

Adjacet Castellae Portugalliae regnum, cujus rex et ipse potens praesentibus rebus non mediocre auxilium conferre potest atque vult. Habet iste rex jampridem apud sedem apostolicam suos oratores, viros praestabiles, ampla potestate suffultos - eorum quidem mandatum in praesentiarum cognominatum fuit. Vere ipsi certa de causa nobis {321r} nota hodierno actu interesse non voluerunt, unde ut se excusatos haberemus, a nobis diligenter postularunt.

Proximum dehinc est Aragoniae regnum, quod latum et magnum est. Par est et regni magnitudini regiae voluntatis amplitudo, quod liberalissima suorum oratorum sponsio modo in scriptis exhibita abunde testatur.

[5] Hispanis Galli finitimi sunt. Horum natio magna etiam lateque diffusa varios habet principatus. Est in primis regnum Francorum, cujus tanta est nobilitas, ut ceteri principes mundi, qui se amplius nobilitate velint, ex sanguine regum Francorum se ortos esse dicant. Fama autem illius regni numero et magnitudine rerum gestarum celeberrima existit. Nam – ut cetera multa omittamus, quae a Francorum regibus passim per mundum praeclare gesta fuere – nullam umquam legimus in historiis expeditionem in infideles a Romanis pontificibus factam, in qua Franci vel non interessent vel magna ex parte ipsi rem administrarent, ob quam rem et hanc meruerunt honoris {321v} praerogativam, ut soli omnium regum Francorum reges Christianissimi nuncuparentur. Huic tali ac tanto regno praeeminet modo, divina favente gratia, carissimus in Christo filius noster Carolus rex inclytus, qui majorum suorum virtutem sequens ad hunc sacrum conventum oratores suos destinare satagit, quemadmodum ex ejus litteris paulo ante lectis et ab ejus oratore Milone, episcopo Carnotensi, abunde intelleximus.

[4] Now listen carefully: this is what we may expect.

At present, [representatives of] almost all the Christian powers are gathered in this authoritative [assembly].

Let us begin with the farthest region in the West. There is the Spanish nation, graced by three most Christian realms. First is the illustrious Kingdom of Castile, where the most noble King Enrique¹ reigns, mighty in arms and men. We shall receive his ambassadors in a few days, as amply confirmed in the king's name by Our venerable brother, the Bishop of Oviedo - you heard it yourselves.²

Next to Castile is the Kingdom of Portugal, whose mighty king both can and will greatly contribute to the present venture. Its king³ has already sent his ambassadors, excellent men, with ample powers - their mandate was named together with the others in the present [meeting]. But for a certain reason they did not wish to participate in today's meeting, and therefore they considerably asked Us to be excused.

Next comes the large and great Kingdom of Aragon. The king's⁴ determination matches the kingdom's greatness, as the most generous written offer of his ambassadors abundantly attest.

[5] The Gauls are the neighbours of the Spaniards. Their nation is great and large and contains various princedoms. Foremost is Kingdom of the Franks. Their nobility is so great that those princes of the world who would be more noble, claim that descentance from the kings of the Franks. This kingdom is famous for its great and many deeds. And – to omit the many glorious deeds the French kings have performed in the whole world – we read in the history books that the Roman pontiffs never made an expedition against the infidels in which the French did not participate or were responsible for a large part of the venture. For this reason, they have merited the prerogative of honour that only the French kings are called Most Christian. This great kingdom is now ruled – by the grace of God – by Our dearly beloved son in Christ, the illustrious King Charles⁵ who – following in the footsteps of his ancestors is preparing to send his ambassadors to this holy congress, as was made abundantly clear to us through the letter read a short while ago by his ambassador, Bishop Miles⁶ of Chartres.

¹ Enrique IV (1425-1474): King of Castile from 1454 to his death

² Rodrigo Sanchez de Arévalo (1404-1470): Spanish churchman, later papal official. Ambassador of the King of Castile

³ Afonso V (1432-1481): King of Portugal from 1438-1477

⁴ Juan II (1398-1479): King of Navarre from 1425 and of Aragon from 1458 to his death

⁵ Charles VII (1403-1461): King of France from 1422 to his death

⁶ Miles d'Illiers (-1493): Archbishop of Chartres 1459 to 1492

[6] Habet in Galliis et principatum potens ac magnanimus Burgundorum dux Philippus, qui non mediocre auxilium rebus communibus praestare potest atque vult. De ejus potentatu plura loqui possemus, sed non hujus loci est hujusmodi sermo. Voluntatem vero ejus insignis legatio ipsius ad hanc sedem missa manifeste declarat. Cernimus enim hic ante oculos vestros nobilissimus ejus nepotem, Johannem ducem Clivensem, ceterosque ejus collegas, viros excellentes, qui votis nostris permagnifice correspondent.

[7] Gerit non disparem ei animum Britanniae dux illius provinciae, quae in continenti posita est, {322r} quae et ipsa etiam intra Galliae limites continetur. Hujus ducis, qui magnus et ipse est, oratores ad nos iter maturare certo intelligimus. Nec ullum dubium nobis est, quin ipse etiam, quod Christianum principem decet, re ipsa adimplere sit paratus.

[8] Sabaudiensis autem ducatus licet secundum antiquam limitationem haud omnino in Gallia existat, siquidem Gallia montibus Pyreneis, mari Oceano, Rhodano ac Rheno terminatur. Tamen nostro tempore propter linguae communitatem ac propter sanguinis affinitatem, quam illius provinciae duces cum regia Francorum domo conjungere, Gallicanis potentatibus annumeratur. Hujus provinciae dux nobilis, magnanimis ac potens filium suum nomine Janum propediem ampla cum potestate missurus est, prout nos litteris certiores facti sumus, et vos nunc venerabilem fratrem nostrum Georgium episcopum Lausanensem pronuntiantem audistis.

[9] Nunc Rhenum trajiciat oratio ad Germanicam nationem, aliarum omnium maximam atque latissimam. In ea in primis est carissimus in Christo {322v} filius noster Fridericus, Romanorum imperator semper Augustus, qui propter saecularis dignitatis culmen et avitum dominium magnam auctoritatem atque potentiam habet et in re, de qua agitur, uti fidelem decet imperatorem, animum gerit, nulli alio principi inferiorem. Hujus legatos loco priorum, de quibus locuti fuimus, cum ampla potestate in brevi recipiemus secundum quod ex litteris imperialibus et litteris nostri oratoris apud ejus celsitudinem constituti jampridem certiores facti sumus.

[6] In Gaul there is also the principedom belonging to the mighty and bold Duke Philippe of Burgundy,¹ who can and will make a large contribution to the common cause. We could say much about his power, but this is not appropriate here today. His will in this matter is shown clearly by the distinguished legation sent to this See. Before our eyes we see his noble nephew, Duke Jean of Cleve,² and his colleagues, excellent men, who magnificently fulfill Our wishes.

[7] A similar position is taken by the duke of that part of the Britannia province which is situated on the continent³ within the frontiers of Gaul. We are informed that this great duke⁴ is also preparing to send his ambassadors to Us, and there is no doubt that he is ready to act as a Christian prince should.

[8] The Duchy of Savoy is not completely situated within the old boundaries of Gaul since Gaul is delimited by the Pyrenean Mountains, the Ocean, the Rhône and the Rhine. But in our own time, the common language and family ties that unite the dukes of this province with the royal House of France have caused it to be counted among the French powers. The noble, bold and mighty duke of this province⁵ will very soon send his son Janus⁶ with ample powers, as We have been informed by letter and as you have heard said by Our venerable brother, Bishop Giorgio⁷ of Lausanne.

[9] Now Our oration will cross the Rhine and enter the German nation, the greatest and largest of all. In this the first [prince] is Our dearly beloved son in Christ, Friedrich,⁸ Emperor of the Romans, always August, who because of the greatness of his secular dignity and his family's lordship has great authority and power. In the matter at hand,⁹ his intentions are those of a Christian¹⁰ emperor and he will do as much as any other prince. We have already been informed by letters from the emperor and from Our own envoy to His Highness¹¹ that We shall shortly receive his plenipotentiary legates, replacing those We spoke of earlier.

¹ Philippe III le Bon (1396-1467): Duke of Burgundy from 1419 to his death

² Jean I (1419-1481): Duke of Cleve from 1448 to his death

³ I.e. Bretagne

⁴ Francois II (1433-1488): Duke of Brittany from 1458 to his death

⁵ Louis I (1413-1465): Duke of Savoy from 1440 to his death

⁶ Janus (1440-1491): 6th son of Louis I of Savoy. Count of Faucigny and Geneva

⁷ Giorgio di Saluzzo (1414-1461): Bishop of Aosta 1433, transferred to the See of Lausanne in 1440. Participated in the Council of Basel and the election of antipope Felix V. Counselor of the duke of Savoy

⁸ Friedrich III (Habsburg)

⁹ I.e. the crusade

¹⁰ "fidelem"

¹¹ Envoy/ambassador

[10] Rex Dacus, Bohemus, Polonus decreverunt ipsi quoque quantum in sese est tantae gloriae, pro Christi nomine participes fore. Pollent hi tres reges maximis viribus et legationes sollemnes ad sacrum hunc conventum brevi destinandas parant, quod suis litteris nobis intimarunt. Et quantum ad regem Dacum attinet, nunc coram nobis venerabilis frater noster Paulus, episcopus Bergensis, ita ejus nomine confirmavit.

[11] Hoc praeterea institutum sacri imperii principes electores ceterique Germaniae maximi proceres tam ecclesiastici quam saeculares ardentem {323r} sequuntur. Omnes enim Christianum orbem pro suo captu tutari parati oratores suos vel jam miserunt vel mittent proculdubio.

[12] Videmus¹ hic ante nos positos inclyti regni Pannoniarum oratores non solum volentes cupientesque, sed pro sua et ceterorum salute supplicantes. Ipsi enim sunt, qui maxime Turca arma sentiunt, qui se et reliquos ab impiorum gladiis defendi rogant, qui incessanter a nobis ac vobis auxilium implorunt, quibus certe a nobis opitulandum est ob multas causas, tum vel maxime quantum ipsi pro nobis se murum constituunt, et fidei nostrae scutum ac propugnaculum existunt.

¹ *em.*; videns H

[10] The illustrious¹ kings of Denmark,² Bohemia,³ and Poland⁴ have also decided to participate in this glorious undertaking, for the sake of Christ. These three mighty kings are preparing to send solemn legations to this holy congress in a short while, as they have informed Us by letters. As for the King of Denmark, this was also now confirmed before us and in his name by Our venerable brother, Bishop Paulus⁵ of Bergen.

[11] The same course is followed enthusiastically by the prince electors of the Holy Empire and the other high nobles of Germany, both ecclesiastical and secular. All are ready to defend the Christian world with all the means at their disposal, and they have already sent or will undoubtedly send their ambassadors.

[12] Here before us we see the ambassadors of the illustrious King of Hungary,^{6 7} not only willing and eager, but even begging for their own and others' safety.⁸ They are the ones who most feel the arms of the Turks. They are asking for themselves and all others to be defended from the swords of the infidels, and they incessantly beg Us and you for help. For many reasons, they must certainly be helped by us, and mostly because they form a wall for us and are the shield and bulwark of our Faith.

¹ "quantum in sese est tantae gloriae"

² Kristian I (1426-1481): King of Denmark from 1448 and of Norway from 1450 to his death, and King of Sweden from 1457-1464

³ Georg Podiebrad (1420-1471): King of Bohemia from 1458 to his death

⁴ Casimir IV (Jagiellon) (1427-1492): King of Poland from 1447 to his death

⁵ Paulus Justinianus: Bishop of Bergen 1457-1459. Ambassador of Kristian I to Pius at the Congress of Mantua

⁶ "Pannoniae"

⁷ Matthias I Corvinus (1493-1490): King of Hungary from 1458 to his death. For Pius to officially call him King of Hungary would not be welcome to the envoys of the emperor, whom a group of Hungarian had also elected as king, cf. oration "*Fabricator mundi*" to the imperial envoys

⁸ "salute"

[13] Est extra continentem posita in Oceano mari Septentrionem versus maxima insula Britanniae, quam prae ejus magnitudine alterum terrarum orbem cosmographi vocant. Intra hujus insulae ambitum duo sunt Christiana regna, Anglorum unum, Scotorum alterum. Hi, etsi remotissimi extra continentem positi¹ raro Turcorum nomen audiunt, tamen cum Christianis Christiani ipsi et quidem devotissimi totis viribus ad sanctum opus concurrere {323v} putant. Utriusque enim regis oratores, viri insignes, cum ampla potestate ad hanc sedem properant, quod litteris atque nuntiis optime novimus. Habemus et nos ibi apud Anglorum regem venerabilem fratrem nostrum Franciscum episcopum Interamnensem, qui per epistolam nobis significavit magnificam legationem ab illo rege ad nos venturam, quam non viri populares, sed praesules, comites, equites atque doctores, maximi viri, exornant. Eam nos non venturam modo expectaremus, sed jam venisse laetaremur, nisi viarum discrimina multa, quae prius providenda duxere in causa fuissent. Quantum vero harum duarum gentium reges Britannici, de quibus locuti sumus, viribus, armis atque opibus valeant, vestrum arbitror latere nemini. Quare de eis², quod dicamus, restat nihil.

[14] Perstringam nunc³ quam breviter Italiae potentatus. Est in primis inter Italicos potentatus Romana ecclesia, cui nos divina favente gratia licet immeriti praesidemus. De ecclesia apostolica atque nobis nihil est, quod dicamus, cum nos illi sumus, qui alios incitamus, et qui non solum volumus, sed cupimus ac parati {324r} sumus vires nostras omnes effundere.

[15] Obtinet post nos secundum locum Ferdinandus Siciliae rex, qui pro suarum fortunarum facultate nostris parere vult jussibus. Jamjam ad nostram praesentiam legatos duos misit insignes, Jacobum Beneventanum archiepiscopum et Franciscum Andriae ducem, quos ambos in praesentia cernitis.

¹ *em.*; vix *add.* H

² *em.*; eius H

³ *em.*; per *add.* H

[13] The great island of Brittania is situated outside the continent, in the Ocean to the North. Because of its great size the cosmographers¹ call it another world. Within the confines of this island there are two Christian kingdoms, one England and the other Scotland. Though they are situated far from the continent and seldom hear about the Turks, they as Christians – and very devoted Christians - intend to join up, with all their might, the other Christians in this holy venture. Therefore the ambassadors of each king,² distinguished men with full powers, are traveling speedily to this See, as We know from letters and messengers. We also have there, with the King of England, Our venerable brother Bishop Francesco of Terni,³ who has informed Us by letter that a large legation from this king will come to Us, not composed of ordinary men, but distinguished by bishops, counts, knights and doctors, eminent men. We would not now be expecting them, but already rejoice in their arrival, if the many dangers on the roads had not made it necessary to first make [careful] preparations. I believe⁴ that you all know how mighty the Britannic kings of these two peoples, We have spoken of, are in terms men, arms, and wealth, and therefore We have no more to say about them.

[14] I shall now briefly mention the Italian powers. First among the Italian powers is the Roman Church, governed by Us through God's grace though We have not merited it. About the Apostolic Church and Ourselves there is nothing to say, since it is We who are urging the others to act and who not only will, but also desire and are ready to use all Our resources [in this venture].

[15] In the second place after Us comes King Ferrante of Sicily,⁵ who will obey our command as far as his means allow. He has already sent to Our presence two distinguished legates, Archbishop Giacomo of Benevento,⁶ and Duke Francesco of Andria,⁷ both of whom you see before you.⁸

¹ I.e. geographers

² Henry VI (1421-1471): King of England 1422-1461, 1470-1471; James II (1430-1460): King of Scotland from 1437 to his death

³ Francesco Coppini (-1464): Bishop of Terni from 1458-1462

⁴ Note the use of 1. person singular

⁵ Ferrante I (1423-1494): King of Naples (Sicily) from 1458 to his death

⁶ Giacomo della Ratta: Archbishop of Benevento from 1451-1460

⁷ Francesco II del Balzo (1410-1482): Duke of Andria

⁸ Here the text ends abruptly, without mentioning the other Italian powers, like Venice, Milan and Florence. As the pope would not likely omit these from his survey of Italian states, it may reasonably be concluded that the text is incomplete