

“ambassador, Sir Anthony Sherley, knight of England, as far as concerns the war against the Turks.”

“*Firstly*, the king of Persia offers his friendship and goodwill to all the Christian princes, as being most worthy of the same by their merits and valour, the king being singularly moved to this present friendship both by liking for their countries and subjects, and also by hatred for the common enemy, the Turk,

“2. Against whom the king would at present begin to wage war, if only he would be assured that all the burden of the war shall not fall on his shoulders.

“3. In guarantee of that his Majesty with the greatest earnestness requests that all the princes, potentates and republics of Europe, of whatever nature or kind they may be, throughout Christendom shall agree to denounce all treaties and pacts which they may have with the Turks, or—should they not be in a position to enter with all their energy into a wholehearted undertaking—that at least they will remain spectators and covert supporters until the successful issue of this war.

“4. But, as no state can be so perfectly constituted of itself as not to have need of external aid from elsewhere in respect of certain urgent and pressing requirements, or of some supplies which it may require—it is notorious and very manifest to Your Majesty that certain private merchants, under colour and pretext of some pact which they have with the Turks, supply him with funds, by which evidently not only the Turkish Government are furnished and financed in bulk, but also with all kinds of munitions of war required by them, by sea and by land, in addition to constant communications and secret intrigues which are highly prejudicial to all states in Christendom. The king of Persia therefore calls on all together to agree to extinguish and suppress all such harmful pacts and agreements.

“5. And, seeing that the dissensions between the Christian princes have in some sort aided the aggrandizement of the Turkish Empire, the king of Persia with all goodwill and loyal regard requests of them that they will be pleased, each of them severally, to listen and give ear to his salutary exhortation to them once more to combine together closely in a sincere and firm pact to this end, so that ultimately an opportunity should not be provided for the total ruination of their countries and states.

“6. And so, should it please the Christian princes to enter in reality into this contract, his Majesty (of Persia), being himself most resolute in it, urges that they should agree to persuade his most sacred Majesty the Emperor most graciously to deign to declare himself in this matter.

“7. The king of Persia promises that upon the first steps for any agreement and decision being taken in this connection, he will put into the field without any delay 60,000 musketeers and as many mounted men, and even a larger force whenever they should wish it.

“8. Defensive wars being insooth naught else than a loss of time, a useless destruction of men, a loss of funds and reputation, and solely a sign and evidence of weakness and small strength on the part of all countries which adopt them,

“9. And, because, if their overthrow be determined, such a great extension of the tyrannical empire of the Turks must be barred and blocked from various directions, the king of Persia requests and begs once more all the Christian princes to be so good as to decide on *other* places for making war the more ardently on the Turks, and on other fronts than that of Hungary.

“10. On this condition the king promises that, at the first intimation given him by letters and notices containing confirmation by the Emperor and the Confederate Princes of his requests, he will speedily attack the Turks, moreover to this end desiring an ambassador with a very wide commission and plenary authority, principally from his most sacred Majesty the Emperor, and similarly too from the Confederate Princes,