

"Your royal Highness and intimated that by the Divine goodness so ordering it We by
 "undoubtedly no merits of Our own were set over the inviolable and sacred Apostolic
 "See of Blessed Peter prince of the Apostles; and that We love You no less than did the
 "most holy Pontiff Clement VIII (whom God called to heavenly rewards after long and
 "weighty labours for Holy Church); and that We rejoice over Your most splendid triumphs
 "which We understand You daily gain over Our mutual enemy the most frightful despot
 "the Turk—in that at this time there have come to Our hands Your letters which You
 "wrote to Our predecessor most duteously. Clearly had it been announced to Us that Your
 "royal Highness honours the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Christian Church with
 "great regard and that Your duteousness to Christian men is unique; but both facts We
 "have learned much more evidently from this letter of Yours: so duteously, so politely,
 "so kindly have you shown Us Your outstanding reverence to Us and also Your love to
 "Our men. Wherefore Our affection towards Your Highness is wonderfully increased,
 "and the more do We seek from God almighty by Our prayers that He vouchsafe to
 "enlighten with the Light of His wisdom Your mind; increase in You and also Your
 "generals and soldiers strength resources courage, in order that You may gain from day to
 "day more brilliant victories. And indeed We could have wished that Your noble ambas-
 "sador Bastam Quli Baig had come safe to Us and that he had experienced Our far from
 "conventional affection, but because being anticipated by death he could not complete
 "his embassy We must bear it patiently. However as often as You shall send any of Your
 "men to Us We shall welcome them right kindly and treat them right courteously, that
 "from this very thing itself You may understand how highly We rate Your friendship and
 "kindness and how acceptable to Us are all the favours You continually show to Christian
 "men. Now though We do understand that these have received from You constant
 "kindnesses, still We do urgently entrust them to You as Our dearest sons whose souls'
 "salvation is beyond all things dear to Us. For this reason we ordered that a certain
 "number of priests, Religious of the Congregation of the Carmelites, namely Paul Simon,
 "John Thaddaeus and Vincent whom Pope Clement VIII, Our predecessor of happy
 "memory, was sending to Persia to comfort the souls of the faithful who live there, were
 "to complete as soon as possible the journey undertaken by them and to bring Our letter
 "to Your royal Highness, and also at the same time in a greater number of words make
 "plain to You Our love. Meanwhile We urge You to be disposed to cherish this friend-
 "ship of Ours by an increase of love and to augment it. We however by whatever ways
 "We can be of use and pleasure to You will cheerfully expend Our influence pains and
 "labour on Your royal Highness; particularly though shall We by Our prayers constantly
 "pray God that by the right hand of His might He will make Your power and strength
 "greater against the enemies of Our holy faith and lead You into the way of salvation.

"Given in Rome at S. Mark's under the Fisherman's Ring, 8th October 1605, in the
 "first year of Our Pontificate."

A Brief issued four months later, 14.2.1606 (Arch. Vat. Arm. XLV, vol. 1, p. 239), was
 in identical terms with the foregoing, except that the final sentences ran:

"And since We heartily like You, and are extraordinarily delighted with Your victories
 "and triumphs, We trust, when the strength of the most savage Ottoman tyrant has been
 "worn down and crushed by you, that Your very extensive realms and the whole Christian
 "commonwealth would be freed for a time from invasion by the common and cruel enemy;
 "so pressingly We beg of You to persevere more keenly and more forcibly day to day
 "drive forward in this war, no less necessary for You and for Us than advantageous. We
 "indeed with the greater energy and determination of which We are capable are making
 "a stand against the Turks, We are rousing all Christian princes, We point out (to them)
 "the opportunity of waging the war favourably and successfully, while our enemies are
 "being strongly attacked by You, and at the same time in Our prayers We constantly