

“beseech God with the right hand of His might to increase Your strength and power  
“against the assailant of our Faith and to guide You into the way of salvation.

“Given at Rome at S. Peter’s, under the Fisherman’s Ring, 6th Kalends of March 1606,  
“and in the first year of Our Pontificate.”

Another event of magnitude was the death, on 23.4.1605, of Tsar Boris Godounov, who while giving public audience to a Danish envoy suddenly broke a blood vessel. The nobles sent for Dmitri, who made his triumphal entry into Moscow as Tsar of ‘Black Russia’ 20.6.1605. This last change in the political situation determined the Carmelites to abandon their project of proceeding via the Crimea and Black Sea, and to return to the original route traced for them, since they hoped much of the known patronage of Catholics by Dmitri. There was talk of a marriage between Dmitri and a daughter of the Catholic ‘Palatine’ of Sandomir, at which the Cardinal Primate was to be legate *a latere*: and it was in the company of that ‘Palatine’ of Sandomir and of the nephew of the Nuncio, sent to congratulate Dmitri, that the Carmelites left Cracow finally, 29.11.1605. At Smolensk, where a great reception was given to the party and where they passed Christmas, the Carmelites suffered terribly from the extreme cold of that Russian winter, being clad merely in their ordinary habits; and all of them were ill. They were afterwards sent forward by the ‘Palatine’ to ascertain in what form he was to enter Moscow. Arrived in the capital, they lodged with the Jesuit Fathers attached to Dmitri, whom Fr. Paul Simon found to be

“of about 24 years of age, excellent physique, subtle intellect, ready memory, with ambition  
“for fame, manly in courage and danger, very choleric at the first outset, broadminded in  
“negotiation, changeable. He had not a man of any worth near his person: all who  
“surround him are Poles. . . . The Muscovites are but little loyal to the Prince. In the  
“time we have been here there have been many plots against him. . . .”<sup>1</sup>

The Orthodox episcopate were opposed to the marriage of Dmitri with a Latin, and refused to attend. When the Carmelites went to take leave of him in March he gave them the choice of going on at once with Zain-ul-’Abidin Baig (who had also come on from Prague) or of waiting to accompany Russian envoys, whom he was about to send to compliment Shah ‘Abbas; and, when they opted for the former course, he gave them furs for the journey, and provided them with horse-drawn sledges. Via Nijni Novgorod they reached Kazan, 2.4.1606, where the governor (who had been in Rome in the time of Gregory XIII and Sixtus V) in private was kindly, but publicly placed sentinels on the door of their dwelling and did not allow Fr. Paul Simon and Zain-ul-’Abidin Baig to go out. There they received the news of the assassination on 17.5.1606, the day of his marriage, of Dmitri, the soi-disant Grand Duke, by a certain Basil Shuiski, whose band proceeded to slaughter the Poles; and of the recognition of Basil as Grand Duke. Fanned by the Orthodox Holy Synod, there was a great reaction in popular feeling against the Pope and Catholics for having tried to foist Dmitri and their rite on the Russian nation. Informed of threats against them, the Carmelites felt that their lives were at stake, the governor refusing to allow them to proceed further without special sanction from the new Grand Duke. In these circumstances Fr. Paul Simon had the courage to write an energetic letter of protest to Basil himself, and it was duly forwarded: on 20.7.1606 there arrived from Moscow Russian envoys, whom the Grand Duke Basil was dispatching to ‘Abbas I, and they sent for the Carmelites to inform them that, despite the ill that the Pope had done him in aiding the “heretic” Dmitri, which deserved that his missionaries should not be allowed to pass, of his clemency and desire to maintain the former good relations with Rome the new Grand Duke permitted them to leave Kazan, and gave orders for provisions to be supplied them. So, 24.7.1606, they left by a boat on the Volga—in their flotilla there were some 3,000 persons, including 500 soldiers—and took 27 days to reach Tsaritsin, then “a village of 100 houses”; but there the Russian envoys ordered that the

<sup>1</sup> This letter was of 15.3.1606.