

“and the Christian princes and send by him: he ('Abbas I) gave him the impression in ink of his private seal on a piece of paper as a countersign for the letters, which in the future he would write to Your Highness and the Christian princes. He instructed him” (R. Sherley) “to leave immediately the Wazir gave him the letters, and ordered that they should provide him with money for the journey.¹ When the Englishman had been attended to, he ('Abbas I) called me. I handed him in writing the points which I was to discuss with him, begging him to reply in writing. At once he had it read out by the Wazir, and then had a brief discussion with him and his councillors, then he told me to sign it.”

Of this “Note Verbale”—as it would be termed in modern diplomatic practice—embodying the instructions from Rome, there are two versions given, one by the eighteenth-century Carmelite chronicler, Fr. Eusebius ab Omn. Sanctis, in his manuscript *History of the Missions*, another in the Spanish work *A Persia* of Fr. Florencio del Niño Jesus, 1929, not greatly differing, but the first is followed here below:

“To the most high and puissant Shah 'Abbas, king of the Persians, Brother Paul Simon of Jesus Mary and his companions, Discalced Carmelites, sent to him by the Sovereign Pontiff of the Christians, wish much prosperity.

“The Sovereign Pontiff Paul the Fifth, head of all the Christian world, has specially asked in his letters written to You, most puissant king, that You will be so good as to put undoubting faith in whatever will be intimated to You in his name by us. And, first of all, he has commanded us repeatedly, and with the greatest earnestness, to reveal to You on his behalf certain matters of no small moment. . . . We are convinced that it would be convenient to put this in writing. We therefore entreat Your Majesty to deign to give the reply in the same manner. His Holiness has dispatched us here” (by way of certain countries in Europe in order to speak to the Emperor regarding an alliance which the Pope would like to make between all the Christian princes with the object of aiding Your Majesty in his wars against the Turk, and the Roman Pontiff would like to know Your opinion regarding this²) “and to report to him whatever may be Your attitude.

“*Secondly.* His Holiness ardently longs to get together a great force, and to unite and instigate the Christian princes to attack the Turk by sea with a formidable armada. He begs You to continue to fight valiantly against this common enemy by land and in the direction of Aleppo.

“*Thirdly.* His Holiness offers to send you engineers and men skilled in the art of war, so that they may be of use to you in this and any other enterprise. With this object he had already sent, incognito, with us a ‘Sergeant-Major’ of the Spanish troops in Flanders, where he had commanded a select body of 4,000 soldiers and was very expert in these military matters: he was coming to find out from Your Majesty and report to the Pope what kind and numbers of artillerymen, etc., it might be necessary to dispatch to You. Unfortunately during our stay, or rather detention in Muscovy, where Zain-ul-'Abidin Baig Your envoy was similarly detained and knew him, this ‘Sergeant-Major’ was cut off by death.

“*Fourthly.* The Pope proposes to accredit to Your royal person a distinguished personage³ as his ambassador, and asks that Your Majesty would send to his court a representative

¹ Quoting another manuscript version *A Persia*, p. 127, states that R. Sherley was given 1,500 sequins, half for travelling expenses, half for “representation” expenses.

² Interpolated from *A Persia*, p. 120.

³ That Fr. Paul Simon, after his return to Rome, did what he could to implement this part of the secret proposals to 'Abbas I, put forward by him while in Persia, is shown by a note in Fondo Borghese, Ser. IV, 86, p. 317, addressed:

“Holy Father—Fr. Paul Simon, C.S., puts forward for the consideration of Your Holiness, in case it is decided to nominate an ambassador to be sent to Persia, the person of Don Andrea Spinola, who has the following qualifications. He is the son of an Italian father from Genoa and a Spanish mother, was brought up in his early years in Spain, when older has lived many years in Italy, for a large part in Rome. He has 5,000 scudi p.a. income” (a rich man, therefore): “is *persona grata* with the king of Spain, who surely would give him something to keep us the position.”