

“of permanent character, to reside in Rome, as it is to be desired that the communication
 “of secrets and plans between Your Majesty and the Pope should be more frequent and
 “frank, as is extremely necessary in the present contingency, for the observance of the
 “mutual compact to be arranged, to render friendship closer, to stimulate the war against
 “the Turk, and to prevent the plots which certain malicious persons contrive either by
 “forged letters or by false and lying news. These ambassadors should reside for several
 “years at both courts, and receive letters from their own sovereigns (which by way of
 “Aleppo can arrive in two months), and in this way deal with current affairs. Thereafter
 “it would be no longer necessary to dispatch fresh ambassadors every few months, which
 “experience has shown to be useless, both on account of the many difficulties of the journey
 “and from the long delay in receiving the replies, as, finally, also because of other events
 “which sometimes befall. Thus the Emperor tried to retain at his court Your envoy,
 “Zain-ul-'Abidin Baig, who, however, would not consent.

“*Fifthly.* When we were on the point of leaving, the Pope commanded us several times
 “particularly to endeavour to ascertain from Your Majesty what You desire him to do
 “whether for You, or in Your interest, and to inform him as soon as possible.

“*Sixthly.* With all insistence he begs Your Majesty to give instructions that all Christians,
 “whether Your subjects born in Your realm, or foreigners who arrive from elsewhere, or
 “those brought as prisoners of war in Your campaigns, be treated kindly and that You
 “will not allow any violence or harm to be done them to make them apostatize from the
 “Christian Faith; while he steadfastly promises You that he will see that the like treatment
 “is used towards Your subjects, whether they be travelling through Christian lands or,
 “having been made prisoners by the Turks, fall in whatsoever way into the hands of
 “Christians.

“*Seventhly.* The Sovereign Pontiff and Rudolph Emperor of the Romans beg of Your
 “Majesty the favour to grant permission to Don Robert Sherley to return to Italy and
 “Europe, on account of the frequent appeals which his father, now an old man, has made
 “to him to do so. His return would be useful in that he would be able to give accurate
 “information to His Holiness about the affairs of this country, and You will have more
 “certain evidence, as we hope, of his loyalty, already proven in his constant and attentive
 “service to Your Crown: because, as he has relatives of much consideration in England,
 “it may happen that by means of his connections he may be able to persuade the puissant
 “king of that island to make a league with You, and annul and break that which he had
 “made with the Turk: this would, without any doubt, redound to Your advantage and be
 “of notable use for Your interests.

“Meanwhile the Pope bade me, the senior of the others and least of his envoys, carry
 “back to him as speedily as possible the replies of Your Majesty. . . . I am now ready to
 “do so. . . . Our lord has also enjoined on my companions that they should remain at
 “this court until he dispatch another ambassador to You, and that they should notify to
 “him the glorious progress that Your arms will make and any other matter . . . that You
 “may deign to hint to them, and that they should fulfil Your wish in everything. . . .
 “However, I entreat You to be pleased to let them enjoy Your goodwill and favour and
 “royal protection, being sure that You will receive the like in the persons of Your subjects
 “whether from the Pontiff or the other Christian princes. And I assure You that these
 “my companions will not ask of You either gold, or clothing, or supplies of food or the
 “smallest thing, except for a house suitable for a residence and Divine worship according
 “to Christian rites, to be rented or purchased by them. . . .”

“Finally, I have judged it expedient to suggest, as a very timely measure to move and
 “incite the sentiments of the princes of Christendom against the Turk that, besides the
 “replies Your Majesty may send to the Pope, the Emperor Rudolph, Sigismund king of
 “Poland, Cardinal Cinthius and the Marquis de Villena, other letters should be written
 “to the king of the Spains, to the republics of Venice and Genoa, and to the Grand Duke
 “of Tuscany, communicating to them the great and signal victories won by You up till