

“so Your host which in numbers easily exceeds all the rest, and in greatness equals the  
 “firmament. Wherefore I acknowledge You a monarch such that Your crown reaches the  
 “circumference of the heavens, the greatest of all kings, the supreme Bishop of Rome,  
 “most illustrious of Christians, the most true Vicar of Jesus Christ. All the attributes  
 “mentioned above are concentrated in You, O most learned interpreter of the Gospel and  
 “of the Psalms, whose sacred person is elevated above all the Christian kings and princes,  
 “whose mind, endowed with singular wisdom, knows admirably how to direct all Christian  
 “nations, whose kingdom is preserved by Heaven.

“With these premisses I consider it my duty to declare to You Our friendliness towards  
 “You and to inform You of the sincere love that We bear for You. And so You should  
 “take for truth what has been said before and what is later to be said, and as coming not  
 “only from my mouth but also from my heart, I being one and the same thing with You.  
 “And just as Your wisdom after the manner of the sun shines over all, as You are raised  
 “above all Christians by Your goodness and singular worth, so now my sincerity will shine.

“Father Paul Simon and the two other Fathers his companions, men of religion . . . sent  
 “by Your Holiness with letters of recommendation, have at last arrived here. They have  
 “delivered and faithfully explained to me the business committed to them in regard to the  
 “Turkish nation. Both verbally and in writing they have notified me how Your Holiness  
 “ardently desires that we should together, You on Your side, I on mine, make war on the  
 “Turks, our common enemies, either to destroy them altogether, or at least to humble  
 “them. They have further revealed to us that with much forethought Your Holiness is  
 “trying to make an agreement among the Christian princes in order that, having mustered  
 “armies, they may attack the empire of the enemy on many sides. Without doubt they  
 “know better than I on what front it suits them to assail him.

“As far as concerns Us, from the time when We took up arms against this evil and  
 “detestable race and made war on it, We have certainly done our duty, as is evident to  
 “everyone, seeing that there is no one who does not know how many provinces We have  
 “taken from them by force of arms. We are ready to do the like now with a countless  
 “army of warriors. In the future I would not be only the adversary and implacable  
 “enemy of this most foul people, but its most ruthless butcher and destroyer, for my part.

“In whatever direction, therefore, it may suit You to push forward the army to inflict  
 “the greater loss on the enemy, You must judge: I only beg You not to delay setting it in  
 “movement. If You decide to invade him on two sides, the one by Aleppo, the other  
 “whichever may appear to You best for harassing the more cruelly and crushing the more  
 “forcibly our adversaries, I shall consider it the wiser and more prudent plan, and hold  
 “it a matter most pleasing to me and worthy of our sincere friendship.

“Your Holiness has further ordered that the aforesaid Fr. Paul Simon should return  
 “as quickly as possible to Your court, and, hearing this, We have immediately given him  
 “leave and dispatched him. We have kept the other two and out of respect for Your warm  
 “recommendations We shall treat them with singular honour and kindness, and order  
 “that they be similarly treated by Our subjects.

“I had thought to dispatch with the abovenamed Father one of my confidants, loyal and  
 “prudent; but at his instance I have nominated Don Robert Sherley, . . . who has  
 “already for long past been in my service, and therefore I have considered him without  
 “any doubt to be worthy of my confidence. He is to be esteemed as being of the Christian  
 “religion. Besides he is very well versed in Our affairs, which he knows perfectly by long  
 “experience, and so will be able to explain them all to Your Holiness and establish and  
 “conclude between us a firm and lasting league of friendship.

“The real method to keep it will be this: that we reciprocally inform each other what  
 “should best be done, and proceed together in all events that shall befall. This I desire  
 “to be done in complete and perfect goodwill. The aforesaid gentleman and Our am-  
 “bassador will set forth more fully and completely Our views about the business, of which  
 “We write to Your Holiness, so that You will be able to give him Your entire confidence,