

“be perfected in heaven where genuine love and true charity is found: an end which assuredly We seek of God ceaselessly by Our prayers. Now We pray that to the glory of His most holy Name and the spread of the Christian faith He guide You into the way of salvation and make You powerful over Our mutual enemies and crush scatter and rout them in the might of Your arm. Our affection for You, most powerful King, is from the heart, and all Your interests shall aye be dear to Us.

“Given at Tusculum under the Fisherman’s Ring, 9th October 1609, in the 5th year of Our Pontificate.”

There is also in the Vatican (Fondo Chigi, II, 48, p. 327) a document which is largely a repetition of that just translated, but which is given here for the sake of completeness—it does make one allegation which, if true or partly true, is of historical value, viz. 'Abbas I was induced to seek war with the Turks in order to occupy the Tatars, freshly conquered, but rebellious from inaction. Elsewhere attention has been drawn to two other versions of the following document remarkably similar (the one practically identical with it), but headed—that in Fondo Borghese, Ser. IV, n., 52, p. 334: “Instructions to Don Anthony Sherley, ambassador to Pope Clement VIII,” and that in *Miscell. Arm.* II, 151: “Report by Count Sherley to Pope Gregory XV in the month of August 1622 about the league against the Turks”; it is the language used with regard to that league proposed by 'Abbas I which in fact is conclusive for making the document belong to Robert Sherley’s first mission of 1609:

“Memorial given to His Holiness Pope Paul V by Don Robert Sherley, ambassador of the king of Persia.

“Holy Father, the business, which the king of Persia desires to be taken up by Your Holiness, can be summed up altogether under two headings, the one regarding affairs of State, that is a confederation of Christian princes against the Turk, the common enemy, the other regarding Religion: and, although this latter is the more important business, a greater object of consideration for Your Holiness and, too, more desired by me as a Catholic Christian, still, because with the king of Persia the other, that of affairs of State, has perhaps been the stronger motive in inducing him to do this, with Your Holiness’ permission I shall begin with that.

“Your Holiness already knows of the great and ancient enmities between the two most puissant empires of Persia and Turkey, and of what import it would be to Christendom that that of the Turk should be brought low as being the nearer, stronger and more harmful.

“Discoursing, therefore, in years past Anthony Sherley, my brother, and I and other Catholic Christians with the king of Persia about this and finding him a valiant prince and desirous of humbling the Turk and moreover well disposed towards the Christian race, we began to encourage him in this design, pointing out to him . . . that that suited him by reason of his country being in that pass in which it then was, when the Tatars had recently been subjugated, and there was a danger of their breaking out into rebellion through idleness, if they were not kept occupied; and when proposing to him various plans, by which he could best arrive at this objective, we demonstrated to him of what great importance would be to him friendship and alliance with the Christian princes, their large forces, their constancy in whatever they had determined and their knowledge of the art of war and valour, because, if by way of Hungary and by acting on the defensive one single monarch like the Emperor was inflicting so much damage on the Turk, it was not to be doubted that all united together, or at least the principal ones together with the Persian forces would do much more.

“When the king then asked us how this union might be effected he was answered by us that no intermediary would be so powerful as that of seeking the favour of such an under-standing with the Roman Pontiff, vicar of Christ, who is the universal head of all the princes, and that, in order to gain that, no way would be so easy as that of favouring