

“should be, at least 33 Religious are needed, 21 to keep up a convent with regular, complete
 “Observance (of the Rule), to learn the language and to translate books, 12 to live among
 “the Armenians and Arabs and preach to them, giving them an example of an upright life
 “and teaching them Christian doctrine. . . . A few days ago the Lord comforted us by
 “(bringing us) two souls, one a Muslim who has become Christian, the other the bearer
 “of this, who for certain reasons as a youth five years ago became a Muhammadan: he
 “came to us full of sorrow and repentance. . . . The letters of His Holiness and the others
 “which Fr. Paul (Simon) left here we gave to the Shah and, though we have daily asked
 “for an answer, it could not be obtained before the king went off. . . .”

Hardly had the Shah returned from his expedition against the Turks in the autumn of 1608 than from some caprice of his unstable temperament he ordered the Daruga to send 150 soldiers to turn the Carmelites out of their residence and in his name to intimate to the Augustinians that they should share their convent with the Carmelites: on the refusal of the Augustinians Frs. John Thaddeus and Vincent had no other recourse but to go to the public caravansarai. It seemed to them that 'Abbas I must be reasoning that a confederacy of the sovereigns of Christendom, such as he wanted, depended on the Pope's exhortations, and the goodwill of the Pope to that end on the pressure and representations of the Pope's envoys, and therefore that by harassing the latter he might hasten the conclusion of a general league. The action had this effect that on 30.1.1609 Frs. John Thaddeus and Vincent drew up and signed a statement¹ for record:

“The Shah had given the Augustinian Fathers a house (not for them to abide there
 “always, but rather for them to lodge there and put up there during the time they may stay
 “here, and one chamber of it they have made an oratory). To us he allotted another house,
 “and we set up another oratory and furnished it. The owner of the house in which we
 “live, and the owner of the house in which the Augustinian Fathers live are daily causing
 “us trouble and persistently moving the king and the magistrate of the town for us to be
 “ejected from their houses.

“He is moreover a monarch who does what he lists, and, as the mind of the man is
 “constantly changing, there is no country where there are so many changes as in this one.
 “When I, Fr. Juan,² had been to the (camp of the) army to see the king of Persia (in view
 “of the trouble they were constantly giving us about the house) I begged him to grant us a
 “privilege, a title, which they call 'farman', for the house in which we then were, or for
 “another. The king gave me the 'farman' in question, for the governor of Isfahan to give
 “us the house of a scrivener, with running water, which is one of the best in this city. I
 “returned to Isfahan well satisfied with this; but a few days after my arrival the king
 “returned to the city and ordered that 150 soldiers should go and turn us out of the house
 “where we were. The governor” (presumably the Daruga is meant) “said that the king
 “sent to bid us go and live with the Augustinian Fathers, and he sent to tell them to give us
 “the half of their house. But they declined for certain reasons to give it, and we were
 “forced to go and put up in a public *manzil* (i.e. a caravansarai). Afterwards the king's
 “bidding was that we should be given another house belonging to a poor man, who
 “is daily importuning and worrying us to leave it, and we fear we shall have to leave that
 “one soon. . . .”

So, proceeds the joint resolution:

“Considering the instability of this king and his kingdom, and desirous of something
 “solid for our mission and its objective, which is the harvesting of souls from these provinces
 “and districts of Persia, after having commended it much to our Lord, we have resolved
 “that it is expedient that one of us go and make a foundation in Hurmuz which, being so

¹ O.C.D. 237 m.

² He spells himself 'Jhoan'.