

“all others—shooting arrows if anyone approached,<sup>1</sup>—he had the Brief of His Holiness once more translated to him and minutely: and once more he began to complain of the Christian Princes. He complained of the Pope who, he said, by that Brief had given him mere words: he complained of the king of Spain who, he said, could find means to make war on Christians of his own religion (meaning the Dutch), but pretended that he was unable to find a way of making war on the Turks. He ('Abbas I) had heard that the Dutch and English had combined to make war on the king of Spain, and he trusted that they would avenge him ('Abbas) for the many lies which that king had written him. The Agent in question remarked that events in the past had been of such a nature that the Christian Princes could not have done more: that he had heard that a marriage alliance was now being made between France and Spain, and that as the Grand Duke” (of Tuscany?) “had also now contracted a marriage alliance with Spain, this Pope, who was liked by all universally, would have so much the more convenient an opportunity for uniting all these princes together in a grand and vigorous war against the Turks. Prompted by the English who have frequented this Court, the Shah disagreed with this, saying that that marriage alliance between France and Spain would not come about. The Agent repeated that it would be concluded, and that at the present there were the very best understanding and relations between France and Spain, that in his testament the king of France (Henry IV) had left the king of Spain guardian of the Dauphin, his eldest son. The Shah then said *that* would be seen and began then to speak of us, saying that the two recently arrived from Rome had the look of men of sound judgment and good intellect; that he knew Fr. John to be a good man, but that he became angered too soon and had defied him ('Abbas), thinking to make him afraid: that what he ('Abbas) had said, he had been impelled to do by the great cause given him by so many falsehoods over so many years: and that he had also done so, in order that we should the more warmly write to the Pope, for he” ('Abbas I) “knew that letters were flying backwards and forwards, and so it was necessary to speak thus.

“After this he told the Agent to go and visit us immediately, and on his part to succeed in persuading us to write promptly to Rome all that he had said, and put it plainly to the Pope that unless action were taken, and the Christian Princes made war on the Sultan of Turkey, he (the Pope) should not afterwards complain if the king of Persia used harsh measures with Christians from Europe.”

“This Agent of the Grand Duke is a great friend and confidant of Fr. John, to whom he is even under no small obligation, so that he came to see us the following morning and reported to us in detail all that had happened to him with the king the previous evening.”

In the narrative of Frs. Benignus and Redempt there may here conveniently be interpolated a version in English of that Brief from Pope Paul V, which had so disappointed and annoyed the Shah—the Latin of the original<sup>2</sup> is given in the appendix:

“Pope Paul V to Shah 'Abbas, king of the Persians.

“O illustrious Shah 'Abbas, most puissant king of the Persians, greeting and the light of the Divine grace to learn the truth, which is salvation and the life of those believing in it!

“The letters which Our beloved son Paul Simon, the Discalced Carmelite friar, lately returned to Us from Persia, handed Us from Your Highness, brought Us very great consolation in the Lord. We are indeed very greatly rejoiced for many reasons. Firstly, forsooth, because with great longing We had been waiting for You to reply to Our letters,

<sup>1</sup> This contemporary picture of the dynamic, restless Persian monarch insisting that the battle-drums should beat and call to arms half Europe, and in his irritation sweating profusely in the sun after his bath, instead of sitting down quietly in the shade, is surely arresting, and enlightening as to his character—not least the detail how he provided against interruption.

<sup>2</sup> Arch. Secr. Vat. in Arm. XLV, 3, p. 169.