

entitled—sufficient at least to put Sir R. Sherley under a cloud: and Jangiz Baig, who, after the Persian code or custom, seems to have expected that the king of Spain would reciprocate handsomely by ordering gifts twice or thrice the valuation of the Persian silk to be handed over to him for his master, was completely disappointed and disillusioned. He received little or nothing, the king of Spain reserving the dispatch of his return presents to whenever his own ambassador from Spain might be nominated. Jangiz Baig did not in person proceed to Rome to deliver the Shah's letter to Pope Paul V, but forwarded it through the Spanish ambassador at the Vatican, as may be seen from the Brief addressed by the Pope to "Anghes Beio, envoy of the king of the Persians", dated 12.9.1611 (Arch. Vat. Arm. XLV, vol. 7, p. 46):

"your letter was delivered to Us by the noble Conde de Castro . . . who also delivered "to Us the letter given you for Us by your illustrious and most puissant king."

Apart from this—whether with any previous knowledge of the Augustinian friar it is not stated, but perhaps thinking thus to keep his companion's mouth shut regarding his own delinquencies in the matter of the silk and elsewhere—Jangiz Baig in his assumed status as 'ambassador' conveyed to king Philip a 'desire' of the Shah for a Catholic bishop to be appointed by Rome for the Armenians in New Julfa, and hinted that 'Abbas I would be gratified by the king obtaining His Holiness' assent to the nomination of Fr. Antonio de Gouvea, whose personality, he represented, was welcome to the Armenians. Whether deceived or not, Philip III did as a matter of fact put pressure on the Pope for Fr. Antonio to be raised to the episcopate, and against his inclination Paul V complied, creating the Portuguese Augustinian titular bishop of Cyrene, together with the office of 'Apostolic Visitor' of the Armenians of Isfahan, by a Brief dated 29.11.1612¹ (? 1611).

As evidence of the request for the creation of Fr. Antonio de Gouvea as bishop coming from king Philip III there is the Brief of 12.9.1611 (Arm. XLV, vol. 7, p. 47) to

"Our very dear son in Christ, Philip the Catholic king of the Spains. . . . The letter "of the king of the Persians and those communications for Us You had given in Your "instructions to Your envoy, We have received from Our beloved son, the noble Francisco "Conde de Castro, Your Majesty's ambassador, who related exactly to Us everything. "From him, as from Your letter, We have understood how opportune You considered it "that, since there ought to be sent to Persia some ecclesiastical prelate, We should charge "with this Our beloved son, Fr. Antonio de Gouvea, of the Order of S. Augustine, which "was fortified by Your Majesty with so distinguished a testimony to his virtues that We "had very little hesitation in committing to him such an office. And on that account We "have created him Bishop of Cyrene, so that with the greater dignity and authority he may "preside over Divine worship and have thought for the welfare of the Christian faithful: "and We have granted him the requisite faculties, as We judged to be suitable, according "to the form in Our letter to him issued about this matter, trusting especially that it will "happen that the assistance, favour and protection of Your Majesty will ever accompany "him, which We ardently desire for the glory of God and the increase of the Christian "Faith. But other matters which We consider necessary for the whole Persian business "and to preserve the goodwill of that king Your ambassador, with whom We have treated "in detail about them, will punctually notify You."

The new Bishop did not proceed to Rome to take his instructions, for on the same day also Pope Paul V wrote to him (Arm. XLV, vol. 7, p. 47), beginning:

¹ See among the Latin Briefs in the appendix to this work a copy of the instructions of Pope Paul V for exemption of the Carmelites in Persia from the authority given to the Bishop of Cyrene. According to the *Bullarium* of the Carmelite Order, vol. III, pp. 428-9, from which the copy was taken, the date thereof is 29.11.1612. But perhaps this is an error for 29.11.1611; because the bishop had reached Hurmuz already before 16.4.1613, and that appears too short an interval after November 1612 for him to have made the long voyages from Lisbon to Goa, and Goa to Hurmuz. Moreover, the Pope's Brief to Shah 'Abbas alluding to Fr. Antonio having been created a bishop is dated 12.9.1611.