

“So, when he reached the port (i.e. Gāمبرun), the ambassador sent to summon Fr. Redempt and the Captain sent a vessel with soldiers very well turned out, and he (Sir R. Sherley) entered Hurmuz, 2.1.1616, received with great jubilation, as is described elsewhere. It pleased the Lord for all business between the ambassador and the Captain to be adjusted satisfactorily (with the Father always assisting): and so (the renewal of) friendly relations was publicly announced, and the road was opened for the passage of trade first on the day of the Kings” (i.e. the Epiphany, 6th January) “following, to the great delight and satisfaction of the whole population. He (Sir R. Sherley) also handed over all the Portuguese prisoners<sup>1</sup> to the Captain of Hurmuz: and so were fulfilled all the hopes of Fr. Redempt and his companion to see Hurmuz relieved of its straits and those (Portuguese) Christians set at liberty without a single one remaining in Persia, thanks to the Lord, who did this.

“. . . All that month they stayed in the fortress, waiting for a fair wind to leave for Goa: and on 30.1.1616, at night, they sailed and took 3 days to pass an island called Larak, 3 leagues away from Hurmuz. . . . All the rest of the voyage was very prosperous and fortunate, without any accident or any death occurring, even among the horses, although there were many on board.<sup>2</sup> Land was seen on the morning of the feast of the Chair of S. Peter” (i.e. at Antioch, 22 February) “and they reached the bar outside Goa in 24 days on 24.2.1616, vigil of S. Matthias, the Apostle, to the marvel of all at so rapid and fortunate a voyage.

“With a letter from the ambassador, Fr. Redempt went to see the Viceroy of Goa, who gave him a hearty welcome, not only because of the account which he said he had of the services Fr. Redempt had rendered while in Persia to India and the Portuguese, but also because of the news of the arrival of the ambassador which he brought, and so treated him with much courtesy and gave him a solemn reception, as related elsewhere. They entered Goa on the eve of S. Cyriles the Carmelite, the ambassador, having lodged during the interval in a house which the viceroys of Goa possess 2 leagues distant, entertained very well until the house appointed for his residence in Goa had been got ready. Four days later the ambassador had an interview with the Viceroy to discuss the terms of which he was the bearer: and the Viceroy summoned Fr. Redempt to be present on that occasion, when all that the Captain of Hurmuz had done with regard to” (the renewal of) friendly relations with Persia received confirmation. There were some persons who bore ill will to the ambassador and tried to discredit him and place difficulties in the way of his mission, and to do him all the harm they could (as they had done in Spain and at Sindi” (i.e. Tatta) “by trying to bias the Viceroy and other leading people; but it pleased God that they did not prevail . . . for they were saying no less than that they” (Robert Sherley and his wife) “were heretics and had conspired against the crown of the king of Spain, and that he (Sherley) now was coming with a deceitful intent, having been sent by the king of Persia to spy out that country, and other similar things . . . this fire was later extinguished by the proofs that the ambassador and his wife gave of their Christianity. . . . The lord Archbishop, Don Cristoval de Lisboa, also showed him (Fr. Redempt) much kindness, for he is very devoted to our holy Mother, Teresa of Jesus, and displayed a great desire for her sons to come and dwell in that town,<sup>3</sup> because he was unable himself to give permission to found a convent without the express sanction of the king (of Portugal). He wrote however an excellent letter asking permission for it of the king, giving many good reasons and indicating the site where they might be put, and in order to show his goodwill in so far as he was able he gave Fr. Redempt written sanction for the Fathers of his Order who are in Persia and Hurmuz to come and make an oratory” (in Goa).

<sup>1</sup> Fr. John Thaddeus stated, 3.1.1619, that there were 70 set free at Hurmuz.

<sup>2</sup> Another instance of the export of ponies to India, which was flourishing still in 1910.

<sup>3</sup> On 3.7.1614 Pope Paul V (Arch. Vat. Arm. XLV, vol. XV, p. 386) had written to the Archbishop of Goa asking him to help the Carmelites in their work, especially at Hurmuz: “Therefore whatever you do on their behalf will be very pleasing to Us. . . .” See appendix for text.