

Sir Robert Sherley and his Carmelite companions had reached Goa after the annual convoy (for 1616) of ships to Lisbon had sailed, and thus were delayed in Goa almost a year. A very lengthy account of their voyage follows in Fr. Redempt's narrative: it may be of interest in showing how life passed on board a galleon in that century, and extracts are therefore appended.

“. . . The Viceroy had had given to Fr. Redempt an excellent cabin and for himself, “should he stand in need of anything, 100 pardaos . . . which Fr. Redempt sent on to the “Fathers, his brethren in Persia . . . and so, bidden farewell by the Viceroy and the “Archbishop and Inquisitors, . . . he embarked at night on 1.2.1617, and on the 2nd, “the feast of the Purification of our Lady, they hoisted sails on the ship and started very “early in the morning (2.2.1617). . . .

“. . . Eight days after embarkation Lent began, i.e. on 8.2.1617, and so they arranged “to perform some spiritual exercises . . . for, besides Fr. Redempt and his companion, “there were on board that ship one Dominican Father, one Franciscan, and the chaplain “of the ship. . . . Every Sunday and feast-day at least two Masses were said; one altar “was set up by the captain of the ship on the poop for the whole ship's company, and in “the ambassador's cabin another very nice one was arranged, where Mass was said for “the ambassador and his wife and their attendants and others who might go, and when “on account of rain or any inconvenience it could not be said for the whole ship the officers “heard Mass there, when Fr. Redempt or one of the others would say it. . . .

“There were about 400 persons on board: on three days of the week the Office was sung “with all the solemnity the Fathers were able to give it. At the Mass which was celebrated “in the ambassador's cabin the other Fathers and Lay Brothers always went to Communion. “On Easterday a very remarkable altar . . . of gold was set up in the cabin of the “ambassador. . . .

“. . . We passed the Line on 24.2.1617 . . . a boy fell into the sea and there was no “way to save him: the same happened to two other men who knowing how to swim saved “themselves: some men died of sickness, but few. . . . On 4.5.1617. Ascension Day . . . “we were so near the Cape of Good Hope as to be not more than 100 leagues away . . . “but it was God's will that they should be humbled by His sending so strong a contrary “wind that the pilot was forced to stand out away from the land, from which we were “distant 5 or 6 leagues, and out to sea. . . . At last He gave them a very good wind and “on 22.5.1617 . . . all thought that they had passed the Cape, so much so that, as is “always the custom, they said a Mass of thanksgiving to God, as a sign of pleasure for “his giving them so prosperous a voyage. . . . They were mistaken, however, for a great “gale blew them back in the night . . . at midnight, as 25th May began, the feast of “Corpus Christi, the Lord was pleased . . . to give them a very favourable wind . . . “when morning dawned they saw land so near, not 3 leagues away, that all the officers “were greatly surprised . . . it appeared to them to be the coast of Angola. But when “it grew light, they found they had made a mistake, as they could recognize clearly that “it was the Cape of Good Hope, . . .

“. . . In former times, because of the gales and constant storms which all ships met “at this point, they used to call it ‘the Cape of Storms’, until the time of Queen Catharine “of Portugal, who gave it the name of ‘Cape of Good Hope’, because, on passing it, all “reached their desired goal.

“. . . After passing the Cape little by little they began to enter the winds they call “general” (i.e. “the trades”) “always astern. Then the captain of the ship communicated “to the officers the sailing orders he had from the king, viz. in no wise were they to make “the island of St. Helena, on account of there being constantly there enemy craft going “to take in water, as had happened many times to Portuguese ships, which had to fight “them. For other reasons the king also forbade the ship to put into Angola, although it “is Portuguese territory. They discussed what it would be best to do for the welfare of