

Shah 'Abbas to Pope Paul V, who answered it only on 25.7.1619 (Arch. Vat. Arm. XLV, vol. 13, p. 197):

“We have received the letter of Your Highness, which You had given for Us to the Religious Redempt of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites: and We perused it with great attention and delight of the mind, as was fitting, inasmuch as We found it all overflowing with matter productive of gladness. For how great a joy ought to imbue Us seeing that the most powerful king of Asia greatly celebrated in reputation for his courage and prudence seeks with such assiduity Our goodwill and strives to be joined with Us in a firm treaty of friendship. Verily if no other reason were to exist, for this one ground at all events We should be greatly stimulated to like Your Highness particularly; but actually there are many others which in Our judgment claim for themselves Our high regard for You. For on sure testimony We have learnt that Your Highness receives very politely and honourably and treats generously Christians who set out from Our countries to Your dominions, but in particular you manifest this to the Discalced Carmelite Religious, men excelling in uprightness and sagacity who can be of no little use to You. We have likewise understood that You are thinking of building a noble church, worthy of Your magnificence, for the Christians who dwell there: and for these things We return Your Highness, as We ought, Our greatest thanks, and for Your goodwill so well disposed towards the Christian religion We protest that We owe very much to You. Therefore We shall always be prepared to respond with whatever good offices We can to a suchlike disposition of Yours. Meanwhile We shall not cease to pray God unremittingly for the happy state of Your Highness, so that these brilliant victories which You yourself have won hitherto over the most inhuman Ottoman tyrant, enemy of the name of Christian, He may deign to augment with new triumphs daily for Your glory and the advantage of Christians. That too We shall ask of God the Father of mercies with the whole kindness of Our heart, which indeed We deem to be the one thing wanting to Your felicity and to Our perfect delight in You, that He will graciously cause to grow and come to due maturity the seeds of Christian religion which He has planted in You. That thus some time We may be able to embrace Your Highness along with the other most powerful Christian kings in the perfect love which is in Christ Jesus, these shall be Our perpetual orisons, and O! would that God will grant them. But as far as concerns those things which in Your name Redempt the Carmelite caused to be set out to Us, let Your Highness persuade himself that they will always be near to Our heart, and for You in all sincerity We wish once more that salvation, which is the true one, and most lovingly beg it of God. Given at S. Mary Major, Rome, 25th July 1619. . . .”

As to Fr. Redempt the following document<sup>1</sup>—doubtless a translation from the Spanish—exists in the Carmelite archives, and rather indicates from the mention of Sherley's name that the negotiations were discussed and concluded with him:

“Instructions from the king of Spain to Fr. Redempt of the Cross C.S., *who by command of his Majesty goes to Persia.*

“Fr. Redempt of the Cross, because of the satisfaction I have had from your person and your proceedings, and from the zeal with which you have dealt with the matters of the embassy sent me by the king of Persia with Don Robert Sherley, as it is necessary to send to Don Garcia de Silva y Figueroa (whom I have dispatched as ambassador to that king) and inform him of what has been concluded and approved in the negotiations with the king's ambassador, and to give him these instructions so that he may be well informed of the whole position, and to cause the king of Persia to understand the esteem in which he ought to hold the goodwill, with which I accept the peace which he has sent to offer me and request of me, as also the favour which I grant his vassals for trading, it has seemed fit to me to commit to you this service and commission, which I hope that you

<sup>1</sup> O.C.D. 236 a.