

"letters from Europe and documents of his Majesty, which had been translated, meaning to hint "that months previously the king had given them to him to translate, and then had never asked "for them again. The Shah, who pays scant heed to them, replied that it did not matter—in "any case it was a box full of lies: the Father objected that he did not tell lies: and the "king answered that he was well aware of that and for that reason trusted him, because "he knew him to be a truthful man. . . ."

Two letters in the Vatican archives (Principi 207. A, pp. 161 and 196) signed "Il Conde "Don Roberto Sherley", show respectively that he was still in Madrid, 22.4.1622—

"my departure from Madrid—to come to kiss the feet of Your Holiness—will take place "within three days and, after embarking on the galleys of Sicily with God's help I shall "land at Civita Vecchia"—

whereas on 5.7.1622 from Florence he wrote briefly to the Pope himself that he hoped shortly to prostrate himself at the feet of His Holiness, and so would not go into details about his 'embassy', but that "the king of Persia, my master, is much inclined to favour the welfare of "Christendom".

But the author of *En Persia* alludes to the way in which he and his 'Countess' were fêted at Florence, without however stating the relative dates, while Fr. Eusebius ab Omn. Sanct. in the MSS. *Hist. Miss.* states that in 1622 Sir R. Sherley reappeared in Rome as ambassador from the Shah, was received with honour by Pope Gregory XV, who on 24.8.1622 issued two Briefs, one permitting him a private oratory in Persia and a portable travelling altar, the other allowing his wife to enter, without remaining the night, enclosed convents of nuns, and to choose a convent in Poland in which to retire in secular clothing, whenever she could no longer accompany her consort, and, lastly, that the Grand Duke of Tuscany honoured Sherley, while the English College in Rome made him a Latin oration.<sup>1</sup> Reference, too, may be made to the copy in the Vatican archives in Misc. Arm. II, 151, headed:

'Report made by Count Sherley, the Englishman, ambassador of the king of Persia to His 'Holiness Pope Gregory XV in the month of August 1622 regarding the League which it is 'under discussion to make between that king and the Christian princes, and the way to 'obtain victory over the Turk, the common enemy.'

The wording of the document below this is, however, identical with that in Fondo Chigi, No. II, 48, p. 327, which is headed:

'A Memorial given to His Holiness Pope Paul V by Robert Sherley, ambassador of the 'king of Persia,'

i.e. the proposals of 1609; and, further, in many phrases and places identical with that found in Fondo Borghese, Ser. IV, 52, p. 324, which is headed:

'Instructions of Anthony Sherley, the Englishman, one of the ambassadors of the king 'of Persia to Pope Clement VIII,'

i.e. the mission of 1600-1: in the absence of other evidence of a revived pressure by 'Abbas I for a league against the Turks in 1622 the presumption is that the heading in Misc. Arm. II, 151, has been added in error by some copyist, and that the proposals do not refer to 1622 at all but to 1609.

Then, under 1623, Fr. Eusebius adds that Robert Sherley was sent on an embassy to

<sup>1</sup> The text of such oration has not been traced in the archives of the College.