

“and praise God in them is an attribute of the Angels. The Shah approved with gusto
“of this definition and said to the Georgians: ‘Let us go and see the churches of the Fathers,
“‘where they sing and have bells . . .’ and, turning to one of the Georgian princes, he
“said to him: ‘Thou shalt go to the churches of the Armenians, while we shall go to those
“‘of the Franks.’ The Shah said this, because he knew that the Armenians and Georgians
“dislike each other. The Georgian answered his Highness resentfully: ‘Let the dogs go
“‘to the churches of the Armenians. I wish to accompany your Highness to those of the
“‘Franks’—so great is the hatred these two races have for each other.

“The Fathers said to his Highness that, if he allowed, they would put a problem before
“him: and the Shah bade them propound it. So they said: ‘Since it is true that in all
“‘countries and states there are good and bad people, perforce among our Christian
“‘community there are also some bad men, who commit crimes: and perhaps it might
“‘be necessary to punish them by shedding their blood, by mutilation of their limbs, or
“‘by putting them to death.’ So they enquired in such case who was to be the judge to
“‘try the case and execute punishment, because it was not lawful for Religious to be judges,
“‘or mix themselves up in secular affairs. Taking in one hand a piece of his garment, like
“‘a man shaking the dust from it, the Shah answered and said: ‘I have nothing to do with
“‘any crime that any of your people may commit contrary to your law; but my wish is
“‘that you punish misdemeanours, and that you see to and keep your houses, people and
“‘community clean and free from such, so that there be no disorder or scandal: and, as
“‘to criminal offences of which you cannot be the judge, since you are priests, choose from
“‘among the Franks residing here or staying temporarily here one to be judge, with the
“‘authority of a consul,¹ and you as priests, knowing more of the law, would be able to
“‘tell the consul what in conscience and justice he should do. So that it is our wish that
“‘you Fathers from the Pope execute justice between your people in conformity with the
“‘law of Christ and the orders that you have from the Pope. I say the same to the English.’
“‘Ali Quli Khan, the chief judge and . . . the king’s secretary and Wazir, in loud voices
“‘extolled this decree of the Shah, telling the Fathers that his Highness had done them a
“‘great favour, on which the Fathers duly tendered thanks.

“The Shah asked the English whether their Gospel and ours were all one. The Agent
“answered: ‘No.’ Thereupon the Fr. Visitor said that the Agent was telling the truth,
“because our Gospel was the real one, and theirs false, being full of the falsehoods which
“they told. On this the Shah reproved the Fr. Visitor, saying that the English had not
“told him falsehoods and had always carried out their promises and were of much utility
“in his country. ‘But, you; yes,’ he said to the Visitor, ‘you have told me lies.’ In reply
“the Father asked: ‘What falsehood have I told your Highness?’ The Shah answered:
“‘This, that the king of Portugal and Spain has promised to make war on the Turks:
“‘when he has not done so.’ The Father remarked: ‘His Majesty the king of Spain and
“‘the Christian princes have warred all these years against the Turks,’ and then asked:
“‘How many years is it that your Highness is making war on the Turks?’ The Shah replied:
“‘Twenty years.’ The Father rejoined: ‘Then, if in those twenty years the Emperor,
“‘aided by the Christian princes, had not been to war with the Turks and had not kept
“‘them occupied in Hungary and other parts (as he did in the years 1604-5-6 and 1607)
“‘at the request and instance of the Pope, would your Highness have captured after Tabriz
“‘and Julfa Erivan, Ganjeh, etc.? Later in the year 1607 did not your Highness take
“‘Shamakha and Demirkapu, called by its other name “The Iron Gate” (Darband)
“‘together with all the very fertile province of Shirwan, and, finally, is it not the fact that
“‘your Highness had no further assault from the Turks until the year 1610, in which there
“‘came Murad Pasha, who had delayed more than 7 years in bringing assistance and
“‘relief to those provinces so that your Highness had been able so to consolidate your
“‘position in them, to great advantage in that you obtained a signal victory?’ The Shah
“had nothing to say to this. The Fathers continued: ‘Majesty, the war which the king of

¹ This seems to be an authorization of the extra-territorial jurisdiction, which prevailed in Persia till 1928.