

in particular attained their objective, though Imam Quli Khan of Shiraz was the moving spirit and organizer of the *coup*; for the record of the Company relates:

"In December 1621" (? *sic*, the instrument being dated 10th Rabi' I, 1031 A.H., the date should be presumably on or about 23.1.1622) "Edward Monox, agent for the East India Company and Thomas Rastell, the President of the same, treated with the king of Persia in the name of his Majesty of England and concluded the ensuing articles:

- "(1) that for the assistance of the English shippes against the Portuguese in Hurmuz and "Qishm (who exacted upon both nations) halfe the spoile of Hurmuz (when taken) "should be devided to the English and halfe to the Persians,
- "(2) that the castle of Hurmuz should be garrisoned by halfe English and halfe Persians,
- "(3) that the Ports and Castles taken in India should be equally divided betwixt them,
- "(4) that all shippes for India as well as English or Persian should be for ever Customs "free,
- "(5) that all strangers' Customs should be for ever equally devided betwixt English and "Persians,
- "(6) that all Christian captives should be at the disposall of the English and the Mussle- "men at the Persians, except Ruy Frera Captain of Qishm Castle and Simon de "Melo Captain of Hurmuz, who were to be delivered to the Persians,
- "(7) that all expense of ammunitiion, victuall, and other provision should be borne "equally by both nations. . . ."

Messrs. Monox and Bell arranged the terms of alliance not in Isfahan but with the Khan of Shiraz (Imam Quli Khan), who had his quarters at Minab: and on 19.1.1622 they set sail from Kuhistak.

Early in 1622, then, disaster overtook the missionaries from two different angles and sources. A short list of the first baptisms at the Carmelite convent, in the writing of Fr. John Thaddeus apparently, records that on the "day of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1618" (i.e. December 21st) there was baptized "Elias Cainoni, a Persian from Luristan": and "on the day of the Cross, September 1619" (i.e. September 14th) "Khatchatur" (an Armenian word that means 'The Cross gave'), "a Persian of Luristan, brother of the wife of Elias Cainoni." On 28.11.1621¹ there had also been baptized three other Muslim converts, who were given the names of: Ibrahim, Yusuf, Iskandar (i.e. Abraham, Joseph, Alexander), the last-mentioned being a Kurd.² Aware that the mind of the Shah had turned against the 'Franks', and fearing persecution the three converts before long desired to make their way to Hurmuz and asked for letters of recommendation.

"I sent them to Hurmuz," wrote the Prior, "and Fr. John Thaddeus gave them letters "of recommendation for our Fathers there, so that they might be given instruction in the "Catholic Faith with more security, Hurmuz being Christian territory."

'They persuaded Ilyas (i.e. Elias), who had been gardener of the convent, to go with 'them as guide, and it was he who carried the letters of Fr. John Thaddeus, in which 'testimony was given of their having all been baptized, and their Muhammadan and 'Christian names were specified.

'In Isfahan relatives of some of the men made an outcry over their disappearance: a 'cousin of Ibrahim went after him and, when the party were some ten days out from 'Isfahan, caught him up and took him back, and the other two recent converts were then 'persuaded by the gardener to return too, in view of the risk in getting through the lines 'of the soldiery.³ Ilyas, the gardener, himself however kept on to Shiraz, where his brother- 'in-law, Khatchatur, was then living: and the two determined to try and cross the lines. 'God permitted' (as the Prior's account reads) 'that between Shiraz and the coast the

¹ See *En Persia*, p. 123, quoting Fr. Prosper.

² MSS. *Hist. Miss.*, chap. XI, book 4, part 2.

³ *Vide* list of baptisms, mentioned above.