

“part of the bones of those two martyrs who died at Isfahan; nothing of the two others
“could be had. . . .”

* * * *

* * *

* *

While this check to their official standing with the Shah and Court was taking place, and the Fathers were confined to the convent, in the South an event fraught with more lasting and deleterious effects had occurred as the sequel to the agreement of January 1622 between the Khan of Shiraz and the Agents of the East India Company. The fort on Qishm island

“having been straightened, the Governor sent to the English to deliver himself into theyre
“handes, who shipped him” (he was Ruy Freire d’Andrada) “and some Maures into theyre
“country, whereat the Persians complain’d, . . .”¹

the water supply of Hurmuz was interrupted, so that on 10.2.1622 the Persians proceeded to land 3,000 men on the island of Hurmuz and occupy the town outside the fortifications. The Portuguese and wealthy inhabitants, with their portable goods, retired into the castle. Ordnance was landed from the English ships and the castle besieged, 17.3.1622. A mine was sprung: parts of the walls on the land side blown down: the Persians made an assault and were repulsed. Then

“Richard Blithe and John Weddell, who commanded the English shipping, . . . fiered,
“sunke and tooke the Portugal fleete—(five gallionnes, one galley and soe many friggitts
“yt we left them destitute wholly of the means of escaping)—and landed their soldiers
“with those of Hurmuz and tooke the castle.”

On 22.4.1622 (Easter-day was 21st April = 1st May of the new calendar) the castle was surrendered by the Portuguese on condition that the lives of all and the honour of the women should be spared and that they be furnished with shipping to convey them to Masqat or India. Francisco de Souza, the Captain, had been killed. The prizes named *Robert* and *Shilling* were given them, on which more than 2,000 persons departed, another 200 remained on Hurmuz. [The MSS. *Hist. Miss.* account states that “between 300–400 (including women and priests) were left . . . only 15 to 20 unwounded men”.] Two hundred pieces of ordnance were found in the castle: the Portuguese had landed the brass guns from the ships previous to these being destroyed: one frigate had escaped a few nights before the surrender of the castle, and represented a loss in treasure, i.e. prize money, to the English Company of £15,000–£20,000. The English share of the plunder of the port and town was £12,000: in breach of the agreement made (as already recorded) the Persians seized ten parts of the plunder from the town to one actually received by the English Company: as to the castle the position was worse as the Persians conveyed away most of the treasure, yet such of the plunder as was seen by the English was equally divided. In the net result the English obtained some £18,000 in money and ten brass guns to set against the expenses of three months’ operations. On 5.5.1622 there were still 200 Portuguese left in Hurmuz, who owing to want of conveyance had to be supported and fed at the charge of the Company. Having obtained possession of Hurmuz, the Persians failed to keep their engagements, keeping the English out of possession of the castle and anything belonging to it, while on account of powder and water supplied they deducted a half of the three months’ pay due to the English.

The natives taken in the operations were made over to the Persians, who put most of them to death, despite the promise Edward Monox had obtained from the Persian commander that

¹ See *Factory Records of East India Company*.