

Sir W. Foster (*English Factory Records*) in a footnote to the above transcription of the letter of Capt. Weddell, quotes Olearius, who in his *Travels of the Holstein Ambassadors*, translated 1662, p. 361, observed:

“It is stated that Imam Quli Khan’s brother, Daud Khan,<sup>1</sup> fearing the intentions of the Shah retired to the dominions of his brother-in-law, Taimuraz Khan of Georgia, and thence sought refuge in Turkey: that Imam Quli Khan, summoned to Court, obeyed, though warned of his danger: and that he was there put to death and 15 of his children killed, one child being carried by its mother to her father in Arabia.”

As to the manner of his death—revolting, as it seems to the Western and modern mind—similar instances are given of Shah 'Abbas having guests dispatched, there have been numerous ones in later reigns. Such bloodthirstiness is not (*pace* the *Encyclopaedia Britannica's* vague assertions) a feature of Shah Safi's character: and the substantial motives which outweighed the former services of Imam Quli Khan may have been evidence of high treason and ambition in the family, not only in the case of Daud Khan's revolt. For MSS. *Hist. Miss.* (chap. 18, vol. 4) has a curious allusion to the first-born son of Imam Quli Khan being guilty of ambition and attempting the life of his sovereign and deserving death—“alleged by some to be a son of Shah 'Abbas himself”. Briefly, the powerful subject, almost a 'king-maker', had become too powerful: and when a 'Perkin Warbeck' appeared as well, the outcome was inevitable. It may be assumed that before his death Imam Quli Khan had lost influence with Shah Safi, and it is difficult how otherwise to explain that on the one hand the viceroy should be planning an assault on Portuguese headquarters in the Persian Gulf, when on the other, according to a report bearing date 17.3.1631, by Edward Haynes and William Gibson from Gāmbrun to the Council of the East Indian Company:

“The Portugall begins to be in favour againe with the Chan of Xiraz, and by capitulacion granted them (the cobby whereof translated wee send you) hath licence to trade att Port Counge, which is three daies journey from Gāmbrun in the kingdom of Persia, and there hath one half the Customs given him for procurement of trade to that port. . . . The Augustine and Carmelite friars att Spahaun sollicite the Kinge and Chan for Ormous again: and the French Capochine friars are petitioners to contract with the Kinge for all his silkes for ready money for the Frenche Company, to be past by the way of Alleppo: on both theis they have little hope, being strongly oposed by ourselves, the Dutch and Armenian Jullfareyns. . . .”<sup>2</sup>

and it is a fact that from 1630, or early in 1631, only some eight years after the Portuguese had been dispossessed of Hurmuz by the Persians, the latter assigned the small port of Kung,<sup>3</sup> three days' distance overland from Gāmbrun, and a few miles east of Lingeh, for a monopoly of imports and exports in Portuguese interests. Of this ten years later, in 1640, Fr. Philip in his *Voyages d'Orient* could write:

“Before we leave Kung, I must mention that this place from very small beginnings, or—to speak more correctly—from a few poor shepherds' huts has become a large town on account of the trade of the Portuguese, Hindus and other nations. . . .”

The English Company itself, however, was also favoured by Shah Safi, for, when in 1726 a list of twenty-two original *raqams* (i.e. decrees or title-deeds) was made at Gāmbrun, the

<sup>1</sup> This Daud Khan was the same who had written to his brother recommending the Carmelites when they interviewed the latter at Ab-i-Kurang.

<sup>2</sup> The first French East India Company was formed in 1604, the second in 1611, the third in 1615: the fourth (at instance of Card. Richelieu) in 1642: the fifth by the minister Colbert in 1644. Jullfareyns = people of Julfa.

<sup>3</sup> The Portuguese were in Kung before 1633, when Gaspere de Mello was “General of the Straits of Hurmuz”, *vide S.R.*, vol. 104, p. 309, ‘Lettere di Spagna’.