

"on whom our opponents relied, is already dead: and in his stead there has been appointed "the Master of the Palace, who previously showed himself well disposed towards the "reverend Fathers of the Society of Jesus. . . ."

The Emperor of Delhi planned to create a diversion on the western borders of Persia: for a letter from Basra of 14.8.1653,<sup>1</sup> referring to the large army the Moguls were sending against Kandahar, added that the Emperor Shah Jahan:

"has sent an ambassador to Constantinople, who has already arrived there to negotiate "an alliance against the king of Persia. This business became disclosed in Kung, where "the letters of the Great Mogul to the Sultan of Constantinople were found in a boat of "the Arabs. . . ."

As a matter of fact, before the end of 1653 intentions to recapture the Afghan town by force had been left in abeyance, it would seem:

". . . After having been thrice severely defeated, the king of India has completely "withdrawn his army from the town of Kandahar, and the minds of the Persians are "relieved of anxiety in regard to it. . . ."<sup>2</sup>

"le Persan demeure en possession de la dicte place" was the remark in a letter of another Religious.<sup>3</sup> There was, however, another scare in 1656:<sup>4</sup>

". . . As to the armament the Shah of Persia is preparing, and which it is said must be "to besiege Baghdad, they wrote me from Shiraz that the Shah is obliged to turn his arms "against the Great Mogul, who is on the way to attack him, wanting to recapture Kan- "dahar. . . ."

But it was the Uzbaks, also on the eastern frontier, who in the following year were giving trouble:

"22.2.1657. Cette année le Persan arme puissamment et en grande instance contre "l'Uzbek. . . ."<sup>5</sup>

"24.2.1657. The Shah of Persia is making war on the Uzbaks, and daily sending off "men. . . ."<sup>6</sup>

"12.5.1657. The king of Persia has enough to do against the Uzbaks and the Moguls. "Here there is an ambassador from the Grand Signor" (i.e. the Sultan of Turkey) "who is "going to Agra with presents for the Great Mogul, in order to cause the latter to persevere "in making war on the Shah of Persia. . . ."<sup>7</sup>

On the other hand Shah 'Abbas II showed little or none of the readiness of his great-grandfather the first 'Abbas, or of his father, to go on campaign to fight the Turks, or any urge to recover Baghdad: for one reason no doubt the zeal for Islam and strong bias of his chief Wazirs against Christians was thrown into the scale against any breach with Sunni Muslims of Turkey. For in 1645 the Turks began their protracted operations against the island of Crete, and for its absorption into the Ottoman empire, by attacks against Candia; while in the month of June of that year the Venetians, apprehending the hostile intentions of the Turks on the continent of Europe, commenced to fortify Monfalcone near Gorizia so as to impede the advance of some 12,000 Turkish cavalry, who appeared on the frontier of Carinthia and menaced Italy.

<sup>1</sup> Fr. Barnabas, O.C.D. 241 f.

<sup>3</sup> Fr. Dionysius of the Crown of Thorns, 16.1.1654, O.C.D. 242 e.

<sup>4</sup> Fr. Barnabas, 20.7.1656, O.C.D. 241 f.

<sup>6</sup> Fr. Cornelius of S. Cyprian, O.C.D. 237 a.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, Basra, 5.4.1654.

<sup>5</sup> Fr. Dionysius, Isfahan, 22.2.1657.

<sup>7</sup> Fr. Barnabas, Basra, O.C.D. 241 f.