student may be aware of the circumstances in which they were written for him to carry out as coadjutor to the Bishop of Baghdad, and due to reside in Isfahan; but, like a third, dated 28.9.1669 (Arch. Vat. *Epist. ad Princ.*, vol. 68, p. 257) when he had succeeded as Bishop of Baghdad, they were wasted effort and could hardly have been sent out to Persia, seeing that he never made the journey.

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Little more is to be gathered from the correspondence examined regarding the reign of 'Abbas II. Besides the overtures made from the French Court and exchange of cordial letters with Louis Quatorze—in this reign, too, an agency of the French East India Company at Gāmbrun seems to have been first opened—and the stay of a Turkish ambassador at his Court, in 1647 Shah 'Abbas II received a Polish mission:

"The Pollonia ambassador likewise is gone, having received a *pishkash* of 35 Tomaunds "and one bale silke, and as much uppon his returne, while he is in the country he is to be "furnished with 60 horses and mules and 30 'abbasi per diem. . . ."[1]

According to a letter of Fr. Casimir Joseph,[2] at the end of 1654,

"there arrived an ambassador, called Viscount Bellomont[3] from the king of England to "the Shah of Persia for the farm and customs (receipts) which the English share, half and "half, with the Shah in Bandar Gāmbrun; but the poor ambassador found himself altogether "obstructed, meeting with hardly any reception from the Court, the other English of the "opposite party having put a spoke in the wheel. . . ."

That refers presumably to rivalry of the various 'East India' trading organizations before their merger. Of interest it is also to note the Capuchin Superior at Baghdad, 1.3.1662,[4] suggesting in a letter to the Pope himself that:

"it would be useful to request the Queen of England" (i.e. Henrietta Maria) "to ask the "king, her son, to enjoin on all presidents in India and masters of ships and merchants "to favour the missionaries as much as possible, and in particular notify the governor at "Basra that the king of England has taken the Carmelites under his special protection. . . ."

In this reign in 1665 the traveller, Sir John Chardin, whose work is still so widely read, made his first visit to Persia: his estimate of the population of Isfahan, 600,000, much in excess of that calculated by Tavernier, suffers probably from the well-nigh universal defect in Persia of numerical exaggeration in estimates. The rate of interest prevailing (1655) was 7½ per cent, low in comparison with terms 250 years later. As to Tabriz, it was stated that

[1] A Persian word wrongly used, as *pishkash* is for presents from an inferior to a superior: *English Factory Records*, Samuel Wilton at Gāmbrun to President and Council, Surat.

[2] 16.1.1655, O.C.D. 236 l.

[3] Henry Bard, born 1616, educ. Eton, Scholar King's Coll., Camb., 23.8.1632. Having travelled in the East, he became a proficient linguist: a Quran collected in Egypt on his travels is still preserved at King's Coll. Distinguished himself in royal cause, particularly at battle of Cheriton Down, where he lost use of an arm, and was taken prisoner: made governor of Worcester. Knt. 22.11.1643, obtained warrant for baronetcy 8.10.1644, created Baron Bard and Viscount Bellomont in peerage of Ireland, 18.7.1645. Accompanied Charles II in exile, and by him sent on embassy to obtain money from the Shah of Persia, and the Great Mogul: died 20.6.1656 apparently from heat apoplexy at Hodal, between Agra and Delhi, and buried there (*vide Compleat Peerage*, V. Gibbs). A younger daughter was named 'Persiana' and died 1739.

[4] *S.R.*, vol. 236, p. 245.