

“come here incognito, and secretly confirm his promises and receive those needful. And “in this connection it is not superfluous to remind you that it had been stated here” (i.e. in Rome) “that in three months the king of Persia is able to be sure of getting” (a man) “from Tabriz to the capital of Muscovy: and therefore, as it is possible to travel from Rome “to the Court of the Muscovites in four months, you will open his eyes to how great an “extent commerce between Christendom and Persia can be facilitated and made familiar: “and you will know that all the benefit will accrue from your watchfulness and tact.

“The king of Persia has no room to doubt that all the wars which the Turk wages against “Christians are but in order to be able, once he has added to his own Empire by the ruin “of the Christian states, to crush also the Persian dominions. Now, since the peril is “common, common ought to be the remedy, which as it consists solely in a good under- “standing between the Christians and himself, and this appears to be hindered by moun- “tains, seas and jungles, and by lack of roads on the way, it would be no less necessary “than glorious an emprise for the grandeur of the spirit and name of this king and (what “is more of moment) for the safety of his kingdom that he should look to this, and should “add to the titles of his ancestors that of his Highness having known how to tame the “roughness of the mountain summits, and render them viable for human feet, just as did “not only Xerxes king of Persia, who cut through Mt. Athos and joined two gulfs of the “sea, but Hannibal the Carthaginian leader, who cut through very steep mountains.

“It is of great importance to know in what manner and degree the king of Persia claims “to have the Muscovite as a friend: whether he trust him, what facilities there be for “travelling from capital to capital, and the time necessary to do so. But in this also you “will be most vigilant.

“And, because it might happen that on your return you would come by way of Muscovy, “you will be given letters for that prince: besides what you may have happened to learn “in Persia regarding the understanding between these princes and conditions of travel, “you are instructed to investigate most diligently the mind and the strength of the Muscovite “in regard to fighting against the Turks, i.e. what are his intentions, and what forces he “possesses capable of being moved against the Turk, particularly should he see the Turk “harassed at one and the same time in Asia and in Europe.

“In the event in question of your reaching Muscovy perhaps, you are to find out all “that it is possible to do to effect peace between the king of Poland and the Muscovite. “And, as your prudence is taken for granted, it suffices to say to you that you will have “to employ every sort of stratagem to discover this. In conclusion of what has been said, “you are reminded that, should you be unable to ensure the continuance of the war by the “king of Persia against the Turk by means of the arguments, methods and offers set out “above, should God give you the grace to bring back at least this much that, as soon as the “Turk attacks the Christians whether by sea or by land, the Persian has given his word to “make war in Asia, and the Muscovite is willing to undertake an expedition against “Caffa, for which substantial assistance in whatever he asks would be sent to him too, “you would return having served God very well, and fully satisfied the pious aims of His “Holiness. . . .”

The joint attack, so energetically planned, did not mature; the king of Poland did not take action, presumably remaining at war with the Russians: and, if the principal Persian envoy did reach Lisbon, he must have found it difficult, if not impracticable, to make headway with the Persian king's own proposals, seeing that in 1580, on the death of the cardinal-king Henry without male heir Philip II of Spain laid claim to the succession to the throne of Portugal and enforced on the Portuguese an amalgamation of the two kingdoms.

However, from a totally different point of the compass, but always with the Ottoman sultan as the enemy, king Philip of Spain had begun to work in Persia, and through the viceroy of the Indies in the person of the Prior of the Augustinian Hermits at Hurmuz in the Persian Gulf, Fr. Simon of the Conception, had sent a representative to the Persian Court in 1582.