

in the desert, too large to move, were handed over to him. Then he raised the siege and marched to suppress the movement of his cousin.

Fr. Leander's *Secondo Viaggio* goes on to relate that, after putting Shah Tahmasp in closer confinement, the Afshar general returned to the attack of Baghdad, which Topal 'Uthman Pasha with 200,000 men had been sent by the Sultan to relieve: that the Turks inflicted a defeat on Tahmasp Quli Khan and the Persians at the Diala river, where the latter lost 16,000 men,¹ and withdrew to Hamadan pursued by the Turks. In 27 days, however, Tahmasp Quli Khan had already collected a fresh force and for the third time marched on Baghdad.

Chron. Basra, in confirming that defeat, permits the victory of Topal 'Uthman Pasha to be dated approximately July 12th 1733:

“An Agha arrived from Baghdad, 16.8.1733, with a ‘farman’ from Ahmad Pasha of Baghdad (who also at that time held the governorship of Basra): so the ‘farman’ was publicly read out, and in it was stated that Topal 'Uthman Pasha, general of the Turkish army, after some hours of sanguinary combat had defeated the army of the Persians with its general Tahmasp Quli Khan; and those who remained (alive) took to flight along with Tahmasp Quli Khan in the direction of Kirmanshah, and the Turks took many Persian guns with other things, and many prisoners. So the gates of the city of Baghdad were opened, and it was liberated from the siege by Tahmasp Quli Khan, 17.7.1733. There was accordingly great rejoicing in Basra, the receipt of the news being hailed again and again by the cannon, not only of the town but also of all the European ships which were lying at anchor in the great river: and a new Mutasallim arrived, 18.8.(1733), sent by Ahmad Pasha for the governorship of Basra with another ‘farman’ confirming the first, and once again there was rejoicing, and the cannon proclaimed the victory over the Persians. The sufferings at Baghdad during the time of the siege cannot be realized. One mān (maund) of wheat reached 200 piastres and was not to be found: they ate all the mules, camels, asses and horses—only two horses remained for Ahmad Pasha—dogs, and cats, mice and similar unclean beasts, and they also ate skins out of hunger, and others even said that some infants had been devoured. Ahmad Pasha had whatever gold and silver there was in his treasury coined into money, and distributed to the soldiers, lest they should by force open the gates of the city to the Persians, by reason of the straits and hunger they were suffering. When the victory had been won, therefore, in a short while wheat began to be sold at a better price, as also other victuals. . . .”

Fr. du Cerceau's *History of the Revolutions in Persia*, on the other hand, makes the fighting between Tahmasp Quli Khan and Topal 'Uthman Pasha take place in 1733 before the suppression of the revolt in Fars (that does not bear out the statement in a letter of Fr. Emmanuel of S. Albert, 12.7.1733, written from Sidon (*S.N.R.*, IV, p. 274), “dispatches freshly received from Baghdad by the Consul” (of France) “speak of the Persians having made themselves ‘masters of Mausil’”—

‘The year 1733 . . . it was near the middle of the summer . . . before the Turks could bring together an army upon the frontiers of Persia sufficient to oppose those of Quli Khan. At last . . . a great body of forces under Topal 'Uthman . . . approached Baghdad, in order to raise the siege. On 19.7.(1733) they came to an engagement, in which the Ottomans seem to have gained some advantage.’

This is doubtless the same as the “signal defeat” communicated from Isfahan to the East

¹ East India Company's diary, Gāmbnun:

“16.10.1733. Two ‘shooters’ from Spahan—advices dated 8.9.1733, giving news that Thomas Caun had received a signal defeat from Topal Osman Bashaw, so that his affairs seem in a very declining condition: he had gathered his scattered troops, which with recruits are now said to be about 25,000 men. . . . Shaw Thomas” (i.e. Shah Tahmasp II) “is at Mizzendroon” (Mazandaran) “brought thither by a body of 300 Khurasanis and very strictly guarded. . . .”