

“pretender Siyam [? sic] whom 'Ali (Quli) opposed, sending against him Amir Aslan Khan, who defeated Siyam with no small slaughter of the people of Tabriz. Finding himself victorious Amir Aslan Khan was not ready to stomach the distribution of governorships made by 'Ali (Quli), and showed his resentment by suggesting a fresh outcome of it to Ibrahim, a younger brother of 'Ali Quli, against whom they united and marched their forces. After some actions 'Ali Quli got his brother Ibrahim to make peace, and Amir Aslan Khan saved himself by flight to Hurmi [? sic for Urmieh]. Meanwhile Armenia was suffering from the burdens of various factions and calamities. Finding himself in peaceful possession 'Ali sent considerable sums of money to many provinces so that they should be distributed to the poor inhabitants, for them to provide what was needed for the cultivation of the land lying abandoned, promising too to lighten the usual tribute for some time. . . .”

Referring to Persian affairs in a letter of 15.1.1749,¹ Bishop Emmanuel of Baghdad alluded to another result of this fratricidal strife:

“As to the news from Persia that empire is continually going from bad to worse: and famine reigns to such a pitch that no bread to eat is to be had. We do not know how the poor missionaries are faring, because for many months we have received no letters from them . . .”:

and he had fresh news, received in Baghdad about 10.1.1749:

“'Ali Quli Khan . . . was proclaimed king of Persia by the greater part of the country; but his brother, called Ibrahim Khan, gave him battle and overcame him and took him prisoner and at once put out his eyes, and for some months he (Ibrahim Khan) remained without declaring himself Shah, but lately all the grandees of the country collected in Tabriz and he was acknowledged by all. This news reached Baghdad only five or six days ago. . . .”

The account in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*,² based on the *History* by R. G. Watson and others, may here be utilized to explain—as extant letters of the Religious do not—that 'Adil Shah

‘began by putting to death the sons of Nadir Shah, i.e. Riza Quli³ and Nasrullah⁴ and all relatives except Shah Rukh, son of Riza Quli . . . : dethroned by his own brother Ibrahim, Ibrahim was in turn defeated by adherents of Shah Rukh, who made the latter king. . . . The son of Mirza Daud, chief Mulla of Mashhad, then declared himself king, as being a descendant of Shah Sulaiman, and imprisoned and blinded Shah Rukh. But the latter's general defeated and slew the pretender, and replaced Shah Rukh on the throne.’ (This was in Mashhad, and Khurasan, the capital of that eastern province.) ‘After the death of Nadir Shah, Ahmad Khan 'Abd'ali (Afghan) marched off with his men to Kandahar, of which he took possession. Afghanistan was at once lost to the Persian crown, for he founded an independent kingdom. . . . Later, after the blinding of Shah Rukh, he reappeared in Khurasan, took possession of Mashhad, slew Mir 'Alam and pledged the local chiefs to support Shah Rukh.

‘On the murder of Nadir Shah the chief of the Bakhtiari, Rashid, escaped to the mountains, while Muhammad Hasan Khan, chief of the Qajar tribe, resisted Ahmad Khan and the Afghans, and eventually brought under his sway Gilan, Mazandaran, Astrabad (provinces).

¹ *S.N.R.*, V, p. 266.

² 10th ed.

³ This was the son already blinded by his father about 1742.

⁴ ? sic for Nazar 'Ali Mirza, as the physician of Nadir writes the name.