

“to Bushire. About that time the Dutch clerk was caught at night in a garden near the town with a Turkish woman and taken before the governor; and, as in those critical days Europeans were being held in the greatest contempt, he got out of it with difficulty for the sum of 5,000 isolatas, and then went off to Bushire: the rest of the staff of the Dutch Company after the lapse of some months secretly and unexpectedly escaped from Basra.

“Having reached Batavia Baron Kniphausen did not find it difficult with the letters above mentioned to bring over to his views the director-general and supreme council: wherefore, having obtained three ships, towards the end of November” (i.e. 1753) “he got back to Bandar Rig and cast anchor, waiting outside the creek for a rather valuable Turkish vessel, which had been about to leave for Surat. The arrival of the Dutch ships being known, the traders were no little disturbed as to whether it was advisable to postpone the sailing of the vessel in question. However it may be, the vessel, yielding to its fate, sailed for this port” (i.e. Basra) “and would not have escaped falling into the hands of the Dutch, had it not been for their innate sluggishness, or that they were too confident and for their delaying attack on the Turkish vessel till the following day; because the Turkish vessel, getting wind of the intention . . . slipped away at night, unharmed, from Bandar Rig, where the Dutch ships were then lying.

“At that juncture there arrived in reply from Constantinople letters in which Sulaiman Pasha” (i.e. of Baghdad) “was strictly admonished that the sums of money taken from the Dutch were to be restored to them, and their expenses and losses made good, and that the wrath of the Grand Signor of the Turks would never be quenched until the most undeservingly attacked Dutch Resident wrote anew to the Sublime Porte that he had been in every way satisfied. Sulaiman Pasha read the above mandate, but to put it into execution was of small interest to him, seeing that, having some time previously shaken off the yoke . . ., relying on his own name and sword he was then by way of making himself master of Baghdad.

“Meanwhile, in the interval of waiting for the harvest season, Baron Kniphausen had retired to the island of Kharg where, so as not to lose time, he put forth his energy and was applying himself to the building of a fort and houses, when in the month of July” (? 1754) “two Turkish ships from Surat appeared, on their way to Basra. They had hardly reached the island, when the master of the vessel named Salih Chalabi went to call on the governor, showing him friendly letters of recommendation obtained from the President of the Dutch Company at Surat. The said Salih Chalabi was received, to be sure, kindly enough; but, when the time came that he asked permission to depart and continue on his voyage, Baron Kniphausen pointed out to him that it squared but little with his friendship so lately professed that they should be separated by so untimely a departure: that he” (Baron Kniphausen) “had for some time past several matters to settle with Basra, the happy issue and solution of which were augured by the arrival of those vessels there. Having so expressed himself, lest the ships should be worn out by uselessly riding at their anchors, in the twinkling of an eye the Dutch ships saw to it that the rigging and masts of the Turkish vessels were lowered and the rudders removed. When he had effected nothing by threats, prayers, solemn promises, leaving his vessels there, Chalabi was compelled to come here” (i.e. Basra) “on a trankey and warn the Turks that, if they wished to buy back their merchandise, they should decide to give satisfaction to the Dutch with all earnestness and speed.

“Only he who is not ignorant of the inborn Turkish pride, by which they esteem everything else of no account and put an end to other people, is able to understand how the whole of this town was thrown into confusion, excited to wrath, and struck with shame. But it was no longer any time for threats or boasting. The assembly of the elders met and concluded that they had been delivered over to drinking the bitter chalice, and they wrote to Sulaiman Pasha that there would be no solution of the inevitable dilemma without the expenditure of money. Perceiving that without difficulty the Pasha, with a show of indignation . . . replied to the Mutasallim that he (the Pasha) had indeed