

“his father had maintained, so that they departed well content. He did the same in
 “the case of a number of ambassadors from the king of India. There were also there
 “some Turkish *chaoushes*, eight in number, two of them who had come by instructions
 “of the son of Muhammad Pasha and the others by orders from Baghdad, Erzerum and
 “Karkamish, whom he caused to be handed over to four of the principal ‘captains’
 “for the latter to keep under guard until his further directions. He did this on account
 “of the rumours (which had already been bruited during his brother’s time) that the
 “Turks were intending to send and fortify Kars in contradiction to the convention and
 “terms of peace between Sulaiman and Shah Tahmasp.

“Their claims were that they wanted back the fortune left in that country” (Persia)
 “by Bayazid, who had fled into Persia at the time his father, Sultan Sulaiman, was
 “pursuing him: after the death of Bayazid there had remained in Persia 17 pieces of
 “small artillery, one of 50 and a ‘terrier’ of 120, together with a large number of arque-
 “buses. Sultan Murad was demanding the restoration of this property—or, as the
 “Turks call it, ‘treasure’—perhaps because he was seeking an opportunity to break the
 “peace with the Persians in order to occupy the town and district of Shirwan. They
 “say this had been discovered in a letter brought to Shah Isma’il by one of the princes
 “in Shirwan, in which Murad promised those people 50,000 arquebuse men, if they
 “would accept him as their suzerain.

“That was the cause why there was talk of war, which was all the more certain,
 “because Isma’il had been thinking of going to Baghdad to gird on the sword and
 “perform the ceremonies which were customarily observed by his ancestors. After the
 “accession of the present Shah, and he had found men angry and perturbed, and had
 “learnt of the design of Murad to wage war by fortifying Kars contrary to the terms of
 “the peace concluded between Sulaiman and Shah Tahmasp, his father, and when he
 “perceived that fortifications were briskly proceeding, he directed his vassals not to
 “allow them to advance any further. And so, inevitably, there ensued skirmishes and
 “losses, and damage done on one side or the other in the border towns and places.
 “Since daily the armed forces increased in numbers, and the war grew more bitter and
 “overt, on that account Mustafa (Pasha) was dispatched with a very powerful army:
 “and thence there sprang such extensive ruin as later occurred.

“From no other causes have these two very powerful princes come to blows than those
 “given above, although some will have it that everything had its genesis in the matter
 “of religion” (i.e. Shiah-Sunni antagonism).

Narrative C varies considerably as to the origin of the war:

“Khudabandeh, having gone to the capital to take possession of the throne, was
 “accepted as their king by the people with much rejoicing. According to the usage
 “of kings and princes who desire to provide for their affairs of state in the matter of
 “peace or war, he asked the counsel of his new councillors as to what he ought to
 “do with the Turks—whether he should dispatch an ambassador to the Sultan, or
 “had better wait and see whether the latter would send ambassadors to congratulate
 “him on his succession to the throne. His councillors persuaded him to wait and
 “see whether the Turks sent ambassadors to him for the purpose mentioned, and
 “then to try and have confirmed the terms of peace which existed between their
 “respective fathers. He accepted this advice. When some months had passed,
 “and the Turkish Sultan had not sent anyone, nor even written to him, the principal
 “men in his empire of Persia, in order to demonstrate their goodwill, and the great
 “love they bore their king and lord, went to him and offered, should his Majesty
 “wish to make war, to put their lives and property at his service: and he willingly
 “accepted the offer and their goodwill: and he prepared to wage war, and attack
 “too the province of Baghdad, in order to acquire it, especially because in it there