

demanding their return rather than cross the river, but finally Mustafa Pasha with the majority of the loyal troops crossed, losing many men by drowning in the swift river: and on 26.11.1578 he went to Tiflis and stayed there four days.

Meanwhile Simon, who, son of the former Georgian ruler in Tiflis, had been a *détenu* in Persia for the previous 17 years, proceeded to make guerilla warfare on the Turkish flanks in the Persian interest, and played havoc.¹ The Turkish commander-in-chief returned to Erzerum, where he arrived 21.12.1578 to make his winter quarters, sending the other Pashas and their forces back to their respective home-centres for the winter: he found awaiting him the Pasha of Anatolia with a large reinforcement sent by the Sultan, who had become anxious at receiving no news of what was happening in the Georgian campaign. On 15.1.1579 dispatches arrived in Erzerum from 'Uthman Pasha, who had been left as commander in Shirwan, reporting the dispatch by Shah Muhammad Khudabandeh of his wife and eldest son with a force and the design of recovering Shirwan, for the Persians had learnt of the withdrawal for the winter of the main Turkish army. At first the Persians won ground, then lost it: the Tatars made common cause with the Turks. Shamakha was taken and sacked, also Ganjeh with much treasure. Hearing of the counter-attack Sultan Murad III wrote to the Tatar ruler, calling on him to go to the aid of 'Uthman Pasha in Tiflis, to invade Persia in revenge. Before the spring came in Erzerum Mustafa Pasha had received instructions from Constantinople to rebuild Kars "which in earlier times had been a town of the Christians and extensive, but is now in ruins".

By June 1579 all the Pashas with their forces were back again in Erzerum: in July Mustafa Pasha set off on his way to relieve Tiflis, arriving on the 10th at Kars, where he camped;

"and having seen the town so destroyed that there were neither walls nor house except for
 "60 [! ! sic] Christian churches, the third part of the town surrounded by the river Aras
 ". . . at the end of 28 days he laid walls on the old foundations. They finished three walls
 "and two fosses were dug, one and a demilune and a fort, or small castle, within the town
 "and behind the river bank: and, as there were three hills near the town, about half a mile
 "off, he had a small fort built on each of them, and posted a good guard and 6 pieces of
 "field-artillery in each and two culverins. In the province of Khurasan the King of Persia
 "was engaged in hostilities with his brother Bahram Mirza, and the chief of the Qizil-bash;
 "but he patched up matters with them . . . having learnt that the Turks were building with
 "much energy" (at Kars). "He was unable to believe that the work could be put through
 "so rapidly, and so in order to ascertain the truth he sent to the Turkish general several
 "loads of fruit as a present together with a letter, in which in substance he wrote that he

¹ It was perhaps about that Simeon or Simon that in Arch. Vat., Arm. XLIV, vol. 42, p. 99 (75), there is a Brief, dated 1.4.1598, from Pope Clement VIII to his

"very dear son in Christ Simeon, King of Karthveli and Iberia",

which acknowledged with pleasure a letter sent by Simeon to His Holiness,

"from which We learnt: . . . of your constancy in the Catholic Faith . . . and that, like a Catholic prince, you are
 "stoutly defending it against the Tatars and the Turks . . . that you reverence with pious respect the Holy Roman
 "Church. But We have heard with regret of the death of your father, the king Chirluar Saphi [? sic] who, as you
 "write, fell while fighting bravely in battle for the love of Christ the Lord against the savage Tatars . . . With regard
 "to your misfortunes, and that of imprisonment by the Persians, which you mention, We were no little troubled, but give
 "thanks to God who brought you out of prison and confirmed you in your kingdom . . . so that you wage war success-
 "fully for the Lord Himself against His enemies and in particular against the most barbarous Turks . . ."

This Simeon, "king" of Georgia, was presumably father or brother of the wife of Shah 'Abbas I.

According to Fr. du Cerceau's (1740) edition of *Krusinski's Memoirs*, Shah Khudabandeh

"began his reign with the death of three of his brothers, who fled away towards the Turkish frontier, but he allured
 "them to Court by fine promises and then put them to death. Being engaged in a war with the Turks in the very
 "first year of his reign he gave the command of his army to his eldest son, who immediately took from them the town
 "of *Van*: and gained a great victory over them in 1577" (? sic 1578). "He afterwards obtained another more con-
 "siderable victory near Baghdad, where, it is said, the Turks had 70,000 men killed. They lost 80,000 more upon
 "another occasion, when, however, the Persians dearly purchased the victory with the loss of 44,000 men on their side.
 "But they retook the town of *Shamakha*, which the Turks had lately taken in Shirwan. This happened in 1578."