

"1590-1, receiving in recognition of his work from Henri Quatre a knighthood of S. Michael. On his return to England he wore this order on his breast, in resentment of which Queen Elizabeth had him imprisoned: his wife lost her reason and died out of chagrin. When released Sir Anthony went to serve the Queen in the war in Holland, where he bore himself bravely, but was captured by the Spaniards in the time of the Duke of Parma, and put into prison at Brussels, being released on payment of a ransom.

"Then he began to roam the seas with several ships, and in the year 1595 left with seven ships for the Indies, seized a certain port, but obtained little money from it. So much of his father's money had he spent in the Dutch wars and through this expedition that Sir Thomas the elder became bankrupt and the Queen put him in prison, where he still is, while the exchequer has seized his property. . . ."

[" . . . ¹When the disturbances over Ferrara occurred, these two brothers" (i.e. Sir Anthony, and Robert, the youngest) "were dispatched by Elizabeth, queen of England, to the Duke of Ferrara and other potentates in Italy, to exhort them not to let Ferrara go to His Holiness, and to promise them help in money and soldiers" (that was in 1598). "Don Robert, who is the younger, went with the ambassador to one of the Italian potentates, from whom he received the reply that it was too late, because Ferrara had already surrendered. Then they tried other machinations, in order to set Italy in arms, especially in the kingdom of Naples. . . ."]

Da Costa's narrative stated: ". . . He found things already settled in Ferrara, and passed on to Constantinople, and thence to Persia. The knight is of great spirit" ("a man of much judgment, and a good soldier"—says the other account quoted under ⁽¹⁾) "and courageous in the field. His father and elder brother are heretics, but he has always behaved with moderation and indifference in this respect: it is believed that he became a Catholic at Venice in 1598."

Another source—a report of 1609—tells something of what happened after the arrival of the two brothers:

"Don Robert Sherley, the Englishman whom the king of Persia is today sending as ambassador to Your Holiness, arrived in Persia together with Don Anthony his brother in merchants' garb, *exactly at the time when the king was wanting to send ambassadors to the Christian princes, and to have them accompanied by persons acquainted with the ways, so that they should not go astray, as had already happened two years before their arrival*" (i.e. in 1597) "to one sent via the East Indies, and of whom no more news was ever heard. When they arrived in Persia they went to Qazwin, the royal capital, with a following of 20 persons, Armenians and others, using the styles of Christian princes and relatives of the Queen of England. The king sent a large company of people on horseback to meet them 3 miles outside the town, and received them in the town with marks of favour. . . . *At the end of a month after their arrival* the king of Persia dispatched as ambassador to Clement VIII Don Anthony together with Husain Ali Baig, a Persian, and he stayed there."

From the other account² more of the story can be pieced together:

"After some months had passed Don Anthony persuaded the king to send him as his ambassador to him (the Pope) and to the Christian kings, promising that he would contrive with them for arms to be taken up against the Turks. He ('Abbas) sent him with another, a Persian, but the Englishman was the senior. He (Anthony Sherley) promised him ('Abbas) to return, and left behind his younger brother, Robert, as a

¹ Fondo Borghese, Ser. II, n. 20, p. 181.

² Fondo Borghese, *Avvisi di diverse parti del mondo*, 1607-10, Ser. IV, 52, p. 346.