

"come to Your exalted hearing by (way of) Frank merchants and travellers. Their ambassador too, who will wait on You, will represent to You to what extent We¹ show consideration to Christians.

"Now that their Reverences the Padres,² namely the most select of mystics and monks Fra Antonio and Fra Cristo and Jeron(imo), had come to these parts on behalf of his "royal Majesty" (in the margin—"Don Philip king of Spain"), "We have accorded them "a hearty welcome and paid them whatever courtesy and regard was due. In sooth they "are most accomplished, and their conduct has met with approval: they performed what- "ever were the precepts and tenets of their religion and faith, and the rites of their creed, "and they were very particular and precise in executing the duties of piety and prayer "and the ceremonies of worship and religious observances and abstinence. Since they "had discarded the world they absolutely declined to accept whatever worldly chattels "and objects We offered them and marks of affection We wished to show them.

"We returned Padre Fra Antonio and sent him to his excellency the king of overseas . . . "the governor of Goa; while Fra Cristo and Fra Jeron(imo) remain at Our Imperial Court, "the objects of our consideration and affectionate regard.

"Whereas We have previously sent You an ambassador, and intimated through him the "state of affairs here and the resolution inspired by Our imperial and friendly regard, "and the love and amity which We have for the high and mighty monarchs of Europe and "particularly Your exalted Majesty,³ and whereas it had been stated in the friendly Brief "of Your Highness that Our ambassador⁴ had still not reached You, therefore We have now "delegated and dispatched to You his honour Diego de Miranda together with Bastam "Quli Baig, who is one of Our (imperial) trusty attendants, while his Reverence the priest,⁵ "Francisco Costa, stays here in Our company. If God Almighty wills, as soon as the am- "bassador, whom We had formerly sent, returns,⁶ We shall carry out whatever You may "have written and recommended by him: and, after learning the true facts of the situation "and conditions there" (i.e. in Europe) "and of the resolution arrived at by their Highnesses "the European⁷ monarchs, We shall do whatever may be expedient in every respect, and "dispatch the aforementioned priest to You. We do not depart, absolutely, from Your (his) "wish and advice. Since (our) object was limited to this, further length has been avoided. "May Your affairs end favourably and well."

This letter, together with another also reproduced in the appendix but not translated because issued at the same time and similar though less detailed and less interesting in wording, and probably given separately for Diego de Miranda to carry (it mentions the first and translated letter and sending him to Rome in company of a Persian emissary), is undated, and from its context written in 1603-4. The impression of the seal on the back of this runs, translated: "The slave of the king, successor" (i.e. Imam 'Ali) "Abbas", with the date "999" (A.H., i.e. the year beginning October 30, 1590—which may be the date when the seal was made, but was not that of the letter to the Pope). Around the circle of the seal are the words: "O Lord, bless the prophet, the successor" (i.e. Imam 'Ali), "the lady" (i.e. Fatimah), "the grandsons" (i.e. the Imams Hasan and Husain), "the devotee" (i.e. the Imam 'Ali Zain-ul-'Abidin),

¹ The Persian words used are: "Nawab-i-Humayun-i-Ma".

² "Padrian" and "Padri" are the words in Persian used.

³ The word "Padishah" is used.

⁴ This refers to a phrase in Pope Clement's Brief of 24.2.1601: "quae tamen legatio nondum ad Nos pervenit."

⁵ The word "kashish" is here used.

⁶ Together with those mentioned by Shah 'Abbas himself in the letter it is obvious that at least four or five embassies were dispatched by the Persian monarch to the Pope and Courts of Europe, made up of Persians and Europeans jointly:

1599. Sir A. Sherley and Husain 'Ali Baig.

Between 1599-1603. One unnamed, mentioned in the Shah's letter, possibly Zain-ul-'Abidin Baig, named below.

1603. Diego de Miranda and Bastam Quli Baig.

1603-4. Fr. Antonio de Gouvea (to Goa) and Allah Viridi Baig.

1604 (from Persia), 1607 (from Astrakhan), Fr. Francisco da Costa left with 'Ali Quli Baig for Rome: another Persian, unnamed, to the King of Poland accompanying an envoy from Poland.

There was also returning in 1604-7 from the Court of the Emperor Zain-ul-'Abidin Baig.

⁷ "Frankistan" used in the Persian for Europe.