

“caused us on the journey from Shamakhi, and his promise to put a stop to it, the men
“whom he sent with us behaved worse than the other man who had previously accom-
“panied us; because, although they did not beat the peasants, one of them went on ahead
“under the pretext of preparing lodgings, and for money came to an agreement with the
“people of the hamlet, who hid everything, and when we arrived there neither for money
“nor without were we able to obtain any supplies: and, unless we were to cause trouble,
“we had to be patient. Wearied by this we did not desire to halt outside Qazwin before
“entering, nor that they should inform the governor of the city of our coming; but, when
“we arrived at the town on 14.11.1607, without sending anyone to make preparations we
“went to the public inn, which in their language they call a ‘caravansarai’. The people
“marvelled and collected in numbers at the novelty: immediately the governor knew of it,
“he sent some of his men, apologizing for not having come to meet us, nor got ready a
“house, because he had known nothing about our coming, and begging us to go to the
“house he had (since) prepared, because where we were was not the place for the like
“of us to stay, but for merchants. We returned thanks to him, saying that there was
“nobody to blame, that we were poor Religious and not looking for such consideration,
“that he should excuse us, as we did not want to make a change, the rooms being good
“enough for one day that we were stopping there. The day passed in sending delegations
“and giving replies, but in the end we were obliged to go, as many people told us that the
“king would resent it and punish the governor (if we did not).

“Qazwin is a very large city, not smaller than Isfahan: it is the capital of ‘Media’, the
“former residence of the kings of Persia. There are good buildings, an abundance of all
“commodities for subsistence and entertainment, everything to be found as if in any of
“these our own cities (in Italy). It is much frequented for trade, as there is an abundance
“of silk, carpets, brocades. It is situated in a plain, has no walls, nor fort nor castle.
“The inhabitants are of the Persian creed, the language spoken neither Turkish nor Persian,
“but all understand Turkish and the majority Persian. The house they got ready for us
“belonged to the Shah: it was very comfortable and a little outside the town. The
“governor was a slave of the king, a renegade from childhood, of Georgian race. The
“same evening, although it was after nightfall, he came to pay us a visit, begging us not
“to tell the Shah that he had not gone out to meet us. We received him courteously, and
“answered that neither he nor anyone else was to blame, since we were not ambassadors
“but poor Religious, that they should not use such ceremonies with us and we did not
“wish it. That evening he had an abundance of food brought, and remained to supper
“with us. It would be tedious to relate the great compliments he paid us, saying that he
“was a Christian, calling me his ‘father’, and he did not cease marvelling to see our habit
“and our conduct, so different—I say ‘different’ because of the abasement of the Armenian
“Religious in those countries. We had caused our interpreters to send out to buy food,
“as we had done in all the other towns, notwithstanding that the governor had sent an
“abundant supply of it, but he would not allow it, and that was the cause that they made
“such a large provision for us. The governor left three hours after nightfall, having placed
“guards at the door and some men to wait on us. . . .

“There was residing in the city of Qazwin an English gentleman, Robert Sherley,
“brother to him who years ago came as ambassador from the king of Persia to our lord
“Clement VIII. For about 10 years this gentleman had been in Persia in the service of the
“king. In the morning he sent a man to visit us, apologizing for not doing so in person, as
“he was ill. Afterwards in the evening he came, and it was a comfort to us to see
“him, in order to get information about the Shah’s affairs. We learnt that he was
“greatly disgusted at the news of the Emperor having made peace with the Turks
“and at not having received any letter for four years past from Your Holiness,
“nor tidings of his own ambassadors whom he had sent to the Emperor, and
“other items of news, particularly that the king was expected from day to day to arrive
“in the city of Isfahan. This gentleman showed us much kindness. He invited us to