

that end Pope Paul V addressed, 16.10.1608, Briefs to king Philip III,<sup>1</sup> to the Duke of Lerma his chief minister, to the Cardinal of Toledo and to the General and Definitors of the Discalced Carmelites in Spain:

“To Our very dear son in Christ, Philip, Catholic king of the Spains, Pope Paul V. Our beloved son, the pious priest Paul Simon, Discalced Carmelite, who will deliver this letter of Ours to Your Majesty, has reported to Us by injunction of the King of the Persians, to whom We had sent him with Our letters at the beginning of Our Pontificate, many matters which seem of a truth to be of consequence to the general advantage of the Christian commonwealth and very greatly so to Your own. On that account We wished that he should go on to Your Majesty in Spain, so that You may be able to learn everything from him more conveniently and clearly. Of the exceptional judgment, with which You are gifted, You will without a doubt understand how greatly the friendship and goodwill of that monarch is to the advantage not only of those poor sons of Ours living in the dominions of the king of the Persians, but also to the interests of Your Majesty in those parts; but Paul Simon himself, who lately returned from there, will still more fruitfully demonstrate it to You. Certainly We promise Ourselves that You will pay attention so that these good terms may be improved on both sides and, where there be need, matters remedied in time. We pressingly request Your Majesty to act in such manner as You will gather at greater length from this same Paul Simon, in whom, We desire, You will place entire confidence in these matters which he will relate to You about this business . . . Given at Tusculum under the Fisherman’s ring 17th Kalends November 1608 (= 16.10.1608), in the fourth year of Our Pontificate.”

Undoubtedly, therefore, Pope Paul V had not failed to give through Fr. Paul Simon due warning to the King of Spain of the evil and overbearing conduct of the Portuguese officials and others in Hurmuz towards Persia, of which 'Abbas I so bitterly complained, and by which they were heading for disaster to themselves and prejudicing Christian interests in general.

The Spanish branch of the Order was able to make easy for Fr. Paul Simon the approach to the Spanish Court, and he had considerable help from the Spanish Cardinal; but king Philip III and his ministers, while personally favourable, shelved the responsibility for a decision on to the shoulders of the Council of State for examination of the proposal to make common cause in support of the military operations of 'Abbas I. This body after much delay held a number of meetings and came to no definite conclusion: in the words of the Carmelite chronicler, Fr. Eusebius ab Omn. Sanct.<sup>2</sup>:

“Just as a body of inordinate dimensions and weight is difficult to move, so that vast monarchy spread over both hemispheres moved with sluggish slowness in making decisions: the objects proposed were debated and argued by the councillors of State, but they agreed only in taking no decision.”

While Fr. Paul Simon was still in Spain, Robert Sherley reached Rome via Muscovy, i.e. at the end of 1609, and, after preliminary discussions of his business, went on to Spain to present his credentials to king Philip III: without having succeeded in the objective of his mission to Madrid Fr. Paul Simon was thereupon recalled to Rome, where he had arrived back by February 1609 and where he was to remain for several years. Before leaving Italy for Madrid the Carmelite Father had written to a Cardinal in Curia a letter<sup>3</sup> which bears as date only “Monday 1608”—doubtless in September or October:

“I think Your most reverend Lordship will<sup>4</sup> recall that among the points which I mentioned for His Holiness’s consideration on my arrival from Persia was this, that the

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix of Latin Briefs for text: original in Arch. Vat. Arm. XLV, vol. iv, p. 81, No. 174.

<sup>2</sup> MSS. *Hist. Miss.* in O.C.D. 285, 286.

<sup>3</sup> Fondo Borghese, Ser. II, n. 20, p. 153, Arch. Sec. Vat.

<sup>4</sup> It was not till later that the style ‘Eminence’ was adopted for cardinals.