

"Religious sent to his country—that they be circumspect and patient, and lead such good lives that they may give cause to his vassals to praise their good examples.

[Marginal comment: "It will be arranged for persons to be sent who will succeed in giving satisfaction."]

"10. And, because the king of Persia has always dealt with Your Holiness with all manner of confidence and, aware of Your supreme authority over all Christendom, has chosen You as his protector and procurator with the other princes to persuade and counsel them to take on them this glorious emprise, in order that the common enemy be totally routed and extirpated—should the potentates of Christendom fail to effect this, the king of Persia trusts that he will not be abandoned, but that Your Holiness with all Your might will personally embrace the emprise, as his Majesty intends to try by every means to attack the enemy in order to facilitate whatever expedition Your Holiness may undertake, and with raids, slaying and destroying, to tear the tyrant Turkish Sultan from his throne. . . . And this being the will of the king of Persia, my master, in accordance with his bidding I have signed these presents and sealed them in Rome, the 4th October, 1609.

"By me, COUNT ROBERT SHERLEY

"(Seal in Persian script: ROBERT SHERLEY)"

A postscript ran:

"The king of Persia asks Your Holiness that, in case Count Anthony Sherley my brother be free, you will order him to return to his Majesty, and, if by chance he be in the service of another prince, to write to that sovereign so that he (Anthony Sherley) may be allowed to resign, as the king my master promises to employ him only in such business as shall be to the honour and utility of Christendom."

[Marginal comment: "About this matter, on this point when he is in Spain the Nuncio will give him any good offices he may seek."]

At the foot came this further note, evidently by Paul Pope V himself:

"He asks for a Brief to be written to the king of Spain, *where he wishes to go*. He says "that he will not go to England, should the king of Spain not be pleased for him to do so, or We. He has been also told that, when he is in Spain, he should discuss this with the king: and *We* shall have *Our* opinion expressed to him by *Our* Nuncio."

He had not then, October 1609,¹ been to Spain, it will be observed from the words: "he wishes to go".

Although in the main a repetition of all other messages brought by envoys from Persia, from Anthony Sherley onwards, and of the contents of letters to the Popes, these proposals put forth by Robert Sherley as his instructions from 'Abbas I contained one new and definite request or desire—that the king of Spain should send a fleet and retake Cyprus from the Turks, in order that it might be used as a base for an expedition of the Christian sovereigns, to land in Syria and march on Aleppo: and who can doubt but that at that stage of disorganization in the Ottoman dominions the proposal was sound, and might well have resulted in limiting the extent of the Sultan's rule to an incalculable extent. Once more, however, lack of clarity of vision, the absence of any spirit of sacrifice in the common cause on the part of Spain was to allow the opportunity to pass!

¹ As further arguments in support of 1609 being the year of Sherley's first arrival in Rome as ambassador, not 1608, there may be cited another manuscript, indicated to the present compiler (without his having the opportunity to consult it) by Mgr, now Cardinal, Tisserant, on 17.4.1935, viz. Vat. Lat., 867, ff. 414-6, in the Vatican Library:

"Instructions to and Negotiations of Robert Sherley with His Holiness in the name of the Persian" (i.e. 'Abbas I) "in the year 1609 in order to discuss the league of the princes against the Turks, and the sending of missionaries to Persia,"

also Pope Paul's acknowledgment to Shah 'Abbas of R. Sherley's mission is dated 1610.