

"Fisherman's ring, the 17th of the Kalends of November" (i.e. October 16th) "1608, and "in the fourth year of Our Pontificate."

And along with that Brief to the Shah was a short note of encouragement and special blessing to Frs. John Thaddeus and Vincent (13.10.1608, Arch. Vat., Arm. XLV, vol. IV, p. 79, No. 170):

"We have given Our beloved sons Redempt and Benignus, Brothers of your Carmelite Order, for you a letter to be delivered to the king of the Persians, in which We reply to that which Our beloved son, Paul Simon, your Carmelite Brother, brought to Us from that king. You will therefore arrange to deliver it as soon as possible to the king, whom you will most carefully inform of Our particular regard for him. What We have learnt of your activities in those parts has been to Our very great satisfaction. Go forward in the name of God. . . ."

and not only did His Holiness send his Apostolic benediction, but he added that he was also "remembering You in Our prayers". To the Augustinians a note of the same date acknowledged with satisfaction the receipt of the letter they had sent by Fr. Paul Simon, by which, so the Pope added, "We have learnt of the really Christian charity with which you received the same Paul Simon and his brethren, when they entered Persia. . . ."

Resuming from the narrative of Frs. Benignus and Redempt:

"The same morning the Mihmandar also came and said that he came to execute the king's orders in regard to the house: he proposed several to us and appointed the following day to go and see them . . . with that he went off. He sent the next morning and on other days divers men of his, with whom we went to view a number of houses, and last of all one, in which had already been lodged a Portuguese ambassador who years back with much parade had come from India to this Shah: and, as it pleased us, immediately it was cleared out and made free for us and handed over to us by those men.

"This is a house bought by the king in order to lodge ambassadors arriving from foreign princes, and for that reason it is in great repute: according to the style of building in these parts it is convenient enough for us: it is situated like an island in the midst of a very large garden, in which there is running water for irrigation, and also another and very good spring water for drinking. It has a large hall, surrounded by many and well-arranged small chambers, and also it is commodious and well-supplied with" (domestic) "offices, as well as having a stable where more than 50 horses could stand.

"In this house then we at once went to reside and forthwith arranged a very taking and reverent chapel in the hall of it, decorating the whole of it with some carpets which we had in the house. We said the first Mass on S. John's Day" (i.e. 24.6.1609) "and, having later made some walls and adapted a place for a choir, we have arranged the domestic offices and other things there in such wise that we are enclosed after the fashion of convents. We sing the whole Office after our own method and the Mass on feast and other days in the manner assigned in our Ordinal, with the greatest confidence of having here shortly a very fine church and an immense convent, in which as a beginning we have in all things introduced the ordinary acts of the community with all the ceremonies, which are wont to be observed in our convents in Italy.

"Now we having gone into the new house, as I have said, there arrived there from Hurmuz Fr. Vincent on the 28th June: and when Fr. John had learnt from him all that transpired over the business of making a foundation" (i.e. at Hurmuz) "he judged it expedient on this account and for many other matters, of which by reason of his brief stay and departure from here Fr. Paul had very little knowledge, that Fr. Vincent should proceed to Rome as soon as possible. Fr. John having taken counsel about it with us and