

extension of the Faith should be feasible by working among the Armenians: and his reply to the memorial was thus conceived:¹

“To the Priests, clerics and people of the church of the most holy Mother of God at Isfahan
“in Persia,

“POPE PAUL V,

“Beloved sons . . . We have received your letters which Our beloved son, the devout
“priest and servant of God, Vincent of S. Francis, Discalced Carmelite friar, brought Us.
“We were indeed greatly rejoiced in the Lord, hearing of your faith and goodness, that
“you are walking in the hope of the reward of the sons of God, professing the doctrine which
“your fathers received from the holy apostles of Jesus our Lord, Bartholomew and Thaddeus,
“and thereafter from the very blessed pontiff and doctor of the holy Roman Church,
“Gregory the Great, Our predecessor. We also love you from Our heart and always the
“bowels of Our kindness are moved towards you and We remember you in Our prayers,
“constantly imploring God to increase in you the gifts of His holy grace, to strengthen your
“faith, hope and charity, so that constant in your tribulations for the glory of His name
“you may merit to receive eternal reward. We further rejoice that you have been pleased
“at the arrival of Our beloved sons, the Carmelite friars, whom We sent to Persia for your
“consolation immediately after the beginning of Our pontificate, just as, trusting in the
“Divine goodness, We hope that intercourse with them will daily be more useful to you.
“For they are tried servants of God and seek His glory and the salvation of their neigh-
“bours and with great zeal and the utmost charity ensue it: We earnestly exhort you to
“have recourse to them for the good of your soul in all needs.

“We have besides derived great comfort from the church lately built there by you in
“honour of the most holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and We give thanks to the Divine
“bounty which has revived you by this spiritual consolation, so that you may serve Him
“the more eagerly. But We pray the only-begotten Son of God, our Lord and Saviour,
“Jesus Christ, that He may daily comfort you more by the increase of His holy grace. And
“since the most mighty King of the Persians, Shah 'Abbas, shows himself tolerably well-
“disposed towards Christians and promises Us that he will treat you particularly with
“humanity, We shall strive, as much as We are able, to fortify this good disposition of his
“by loving and kindly good offices, so that you may apply yourselves to good works with
“greater peace and quietness. You also on the other hand take care by giving examples
“of Christian virtue, mildness, charity, guilelessness and uprightness to win over to you
“the goodwill not only of the king, but of all Persians, so that the name of God may be
“glorified in you and the hearts of men burn with the fire of the Divine love. And this
“through His ineffable mercy may He grant to you, Who according to the exceeding loving-
“kindness with which He loved His servants handed over to death His only begotten Son,
“and We bestow Our apostolic blessing, for which you petition Us, with every sentiment of
“affection.

“Given at S. Peter's, Rome, the 10th of the Kalends of July 1610, in the sixth year of
“Our pontificate” (= 22nd June 1610).

In that same year the Armenian notable, Khwajeh Safar Azaria, arrived in Venice to recover certain goods of the Shah, which the Republic duly handed over to him. Later he was well received in Rome, being made 'Count' and 'knight', and he was entrusted by Pope Paul with a letter dated 7th Ides July (= 9th July) 1610 for delivery to 'Abbas I:² but these and other replies reached the latter only in 1619, for Khwajeh Safar, for some reason apprehensive of the monarch, went instead to India³ and to the court of the Mogul before returning to Persia.

¹ For the Latin original see Appendix of Papal Briefs.

² It is to be found in Arch. Secr. Vat. Arm. XLV, vol. 6, p. 35, No. 64.

³ In the Fondo Barberini, Vat. Libr., No. 8565, there are two letters of "Conde Seffer Armeno, factor . . . del Rey de Persia", in Spanish, dated 19.11.1613 from Lisbon and 21.12.1612, addressed to Card. Borghese, thanking him for paternal