

“and disposed to give them daily more manifest proofs of Your goodwill. You have indeed
 “by these favours and this inclination of Your mind towards the faithful bound Our love
 “so fast to You that We are ever mindful of You in Our prayers and constantly pray the
 “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that He enlighten Your understanding with
 “the light of the Holy Spirit and guide Your steps into the way of salvation so that through
 “His unspeakable mercy You may deserve to receive the reward which We desire for You
 “with all the love of Our heart. So too also by Our constant prayers We ask of His bound-
 “less goodness that by the power of his boundless strength, whereby He is wont to shatter
 “the bows and to shiver the arms of the proud, He may aid Your conquering arms against
 “the ceaseless enemy of the Christian name, the most hostile Ottoman tyrant, and that
 “He may hurl that very creature beneath Your feet to the glory of His Divine name, and
 “that He may bring to naught his unendurable tyranny. O that, as We have united
 “these prayers of Ours, which We have never broken off, so too We might have been
 “able to unite together at the same time the mighty forces of Our very dear sons in Christ,
 “the kings and princes of the Christian commonwealth, just as from the start of Our
 “Pontificate We have right up to this day assiduously and zealously laboured, even as We
 “have intimated not once nor twice to Your Highness that We should, as soon soever as
 “We had taken over the ministry of Our apostolate.

“But the Divine Providence, undeceivable in its governance, disposing otherwise,
 “hindrances have come to light so many and so complex as to hamper not merely Our
 “own endeavours and exertions to effect this joining of arms, but to force Us to endeavour
 “to unite minds in friendship and to heal the differences which have been stirred up among
 “Our subjects too rudely and too seriously, especially in Germany. We Ourselves too in
 “Italy have not been without or free from suspecting disturbances in Italy, all of which
 “We believe Your ambassadors, 'Ali Baig the Persian and Our well-beloved son Robert
 “Sherley the Englishman have by now reported to Your Highness, and We think they
 “have already betaken themselves to You. For these men could have independently known
 “all such, since each, though not at the same time in the City, has mostly been present
 “during all that was going on in Italy, and saw Our disquiet about the state of affairs in
 “Germany. But the aforesaid Anghes [*sic*] Baig also will now be equally able to report
 “to You that very matter, as he, We think, undoubtedly will have heard of and understood
 “the dissensions and quarrels of Our subjects in Germany, while he stayed at the Court
 “of the king of the Spains.

“Consequently, knowing as We do Your outstanding kindness and circumspectness,
 “We trust You will rather pity Our dejection than complain of Our slackness in urging
 “and setting on fire Our most beloved sons the Christian princes for a Turkish war. For
 “nohow can You doubt Our will, particularly since there has been added to Our innate
 “longings the chance supplied Us by Your wonderful courage and bravery, and also happy
 “fortune in war, of destroying this tyranny hated of God and man.

“Wherefore also We strongly desire that Your Highness be quite convinced that, if God
 “kindly grant Our prayers by giving harmony and peace to the Christian commonwealth,
 “We shall never rest idle, We shall never fold Our hands until helped by the Divine grace
 “We stir up Christian arms against the Turks.

“Now, as touching the remaining matters, We are just as much desirous as You not
 “merely to keep up, but to increase our mutual friendship and goodwill, and of this We
 “shall be zealously solicitous with every kind of good office, regard and affection. So,
 “since We should have sent in compliance with Your request some prelate of the Church
 “to Persia to busy himself with what is useful for the faithful sojourning there and at one
 “and the same time to manifest to You Our special regard, We have chosen for this Our
 “venerable brother Antonio de Gouvea and made him Bishop of Cyrene, because We
 “thought he would be admirably suited to this office and very welcome to You: and We
 “wish You to show him unhesitating confidence regarding all he will lay before You as to
 “Our outstanding goodwill towards You.