

Carmelites in the East, etc., and of Fr. Redempt's commission as Prior of Isfahan. The letters patent ran, therefore:¹

"Fr. John Thaddeus of S. Elisaeus, Vicar General of the Discalced Carmelites of the "Congregation of S. Elias of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel, who "are dwelling in the kingdom of Persia, in Hurmuz and in the East Indies, to Fr. Redempt "of the Cross, Prior, and professed priest of the said Congregation, eternal salvation.

"Since the king of the Persians has committed some very important business to Count "Robert Sherley, the Englishman, particularly conducing to the glory of God and the "benefit of Christianity and also to the liberation of many Christians now living in the "power of, and slavery to the said king: and since he (Sherley) was unwilling to undertake "that commission laid on him unless the aforesaid king should provide some one of the "Discalced Carmelite Fathers residing at the court of the said king as a companion for "the journey and counsellor for his soul, the king strictly ordered me to appoint for this "office the Reverend Fr. Redempt of the Cross, Prior of our convent. Wherefore, in "order that there may be no impediment to the glory of God and the consolation of so "many of the faithful and also so that I may comply with the king's desires and the wishes "of the aforesaid and so well-deserving Count, we enjoin on you, the said Fr. Prior by "virtue of holy obedience to accompany the above-named Count throughout his journey "to Rome, and as far as wherever our superiors may desire on your arrival.

"Moreover we also give you as a companion Brother Elisaeus of S. John Baptist, a Lay "Brother of this our holy Order, so that by bearing each other's burdens on so great a "journey you may better fulfil the law of God; and on account of the great distance we "grant you the faculty to ride on horseback and, if need be, permission to eat meat. . . . "In faith of which we have issued these present letters signed by our hand, and furnished "with the seal of our Order, in our convent of Jesus and Mary at Isfahan, the 19th of the "month of March, A.D. 1616, Fr. John Thaddeus of S. Elisaeus, Vicar General."

Fortunately the 'fiat' or 'farman' bearing the seals of 'Abbas I has been preserved in the archives of the Order in Rome: a photograph is here reproduced, and in the appendix a transcription in the modern Persian typescript for any orientalist interested. It may be translated as follows:

"To Allah kingdom.

"The royal command is issued that:

"Whereas the venerable and respected Padres, the notable Christian recluses, Padre "Juan² and Padre Redempto, have come to Our royal Court from the land of the Franks "and have been in these regions, and whereas at this juncture We have dispatched the "worthy knight's son,³ Don Robert Sherley, as an envoy and ambassador,⁴ to the land of "the Franks to the exalted Frank sovereigns,⁵ We have directed that the Father Superior, "Padre Juan, should dispatch his companion Fr. Redempt in company with the above- "named knight's son for the purpose of inspiring confidence,⁶ so that they may go together "to the Courts of the Frank sovereigns⁷ and convey messages⁸ on behalf of Our Majesty, "while he" (i.e. Padre Juan) "himself should remain in these parts in attendance on Us. "In accordance with the royal command he dispatched Fr. Redempt along with the "aforesaid knight's son, and We have kept Padre Juan here. In whatsoever place and in

¹ Latin text is given in O.C.D. 234 c. (*Relación breve*, etc., of Fr. Redempt, cited.)

² The name in Persian is transliterated as Juwan, not Khwan, as one would expect if he were called by the Spanish for 'John': nor 'Juwani' if by the Italian rendering: it is more the sound of his signature 'Jhoan'.

³ *Baigzadeh* in Persian, 'son of a Baig': perhaps 'knight' alone would express it.

⁴ The word *ilchi* is used.

⁵ 'Salatin', plural of 'Sultan' used.

⁶ Or 'as a guarantee', a 'surety', i.e. as to Sherley's identity and qualifications as a real ambassador.

⁷ *Padishahan* here used.

⁸ *Risalat rasanand*—literally as above: 'deliver', or 'execute their mission' is no doubt meant.