

“will execute in (such) a manner that I (shall) remain well pleased and ever happy to recompense it and show you favours and graciousness in this respect.

“You are to embark in two galleons, which are now fitting out in Lisbon, and of which Ruy Freire d'Andrade is the Captain-in-Chief: and I am giving him instructions to provide you with the expenses needful for the voyage and the best attention up till your arrival in Hurmuz, where you will give to the Captain of that fortress the packet of letters, which you are carrying for him, inside of which there is another for Don Garcia de Silva, my ambassador, which the said Captain of Hurmuz is to give you in the manner, which I am bidding him do, so that you may pass on with it into Persia, as I order you to do with the greatest speed possible: and for the expenses of the journey whatever is needful will be given you in Hurmuz charged to the account of my household.

“You will go straight to the place in Persia, where the ambassador Don Garcia de Silva y Figueroa is, and, giving him my letters, you will inform him of all that has passed in this connection, so that, duly informed, he may go and conclude a peace to be established with the Shah, taking you with him: and I refrain from charging you in greater detail with the good offices which you will have to use in this with him (the Shah) and with the other persons, whom it will be necessary to cause to understand the great amount they have gained, and how useful it will be to them, because I have confidence in you that you will make it fully clear.

“And, if the ambassador should be dead or have left Persia, you will act in that case, according as the Captain of Hurmuz will request you on my behalf, and which I am notifying to him at length.

“Written in Madrid, this 14th March 1619.

“I, the king.

“(Countersigned) The Duke of Villa Hermosa”

Two months later, on 30.5.1619, Fr. Redempt was dead, as already stated.

That Fr. Redempt was entrusted with king Philip's counter-terms to Shah 'Abbas, and not Sir R. Sherley, was due, it may be surmised, (a) to Sherley not returning immediately or direct to Persia, (b) to the Spanish ambassador, Don Garcia, having already left for Persia in advance of the arrival of Sherley and Fr. Redempt at Madrid and to king Philip naturally preferring to leave to him the final conclusion of terms.

The letter of instructions for Don Garcia de Silva, mentioned above, after the death of Fr. Redempt on shipboard was forwarded on from Hurmuz only—as will be read in Pietro della Valle's work—to come to hand after the ambassador had terminated his mission and was on the road back to Hurmuz.

Fruitless of any concrete result as this mission, like all the others sent by 'Abbas I to Europe, would appear to have been—Fr. Redempt dead, the envoy himself an absentee from Persia till 1628—the Shah continued for long to take an interest in its outcome. In his letter to Fr. Benignus in Rome, 3.1.1619,¹ Fr. John Thaddeus wrote of his recent visit to the Shah at Qazwin in August 1618:

“By command of the king I left for the camp as he desired to have more news of the arrival of Fr. Redempt at Madrid, and what he had negotiated with the king of Spain. I told the king that I had not come earlier, because I was awaiting news: that I had left instructions with the Fathers in Isfahan to send the news directly, when received. As I was on my way back to Isfahan in the middle of October on the day before reaching Qazwin there was the courier from Madrid, dispatched by Don Robert (Sherley) with letters from Fr. Redempt. The courier however carried an open note in Persian from the Mihmandar (to the effect) that the packet of letters (in cloth) was not to be handed over unless I were with the Shah.”

¹ O.C.D. 237 m.