

“remove them. The Daruga greatly regretted that he had had them executed because he had not thought they would be so brave. Everyone was saying ‘their faith is stronger than ours’ . . .

“ . . . On Thursday morning, the 17th February, after we had finished prayers, in which the life of S. Ignatius the martyr had been read, 'Abdullah a Christian servant in our house arrived and told us that the two Christian converts had been already taken out of the prison to be executed: so I told him to return and see how they died and inform us: while we all turned to prayer. . . . So we began to repeat the 'Pater noster . . . sanctificetur 'nomen Tuum' until 'Abdullah returned and related to us how they stoned and then set on fire the two Christians, and how the latter had confessed Jesus Christ . . . and the Daruga of the city, who came to see us, and the guards we had at the gate and many other Christians who had been present told us the same. We therefore said the 'Te Deum laudamus', although it had been prohibited that we should recite the rosary or say prayers, for they thought that we might contrive some enchantment, so that they could not kill our Christians.

“The same day they opened the church and our cells for us: and, when we had recom-pensed them as best we could, the guards went away and we began our regular exercises. At night I sent Brother Diego clothed in lay dress to see in what state the bodies of the two Christians had remained and whether, if possible, he could bring what he could of them. But he returned without having succeeded in doing anything. Then I sent the lieutenant of police a message by a relative of his, asking for the bodies of the Christians to be given us and promising to remunerate him fittingly. He marvelled on hearing my request and said: 'The trust in their Faith of the Christians is great indeed that, when they have suffered such a trial as this, they should yet ask me for the bodies of the Christians.' However he answered very courteously that he was unable to comply with our request. Later, however, we arranged with a relative of his to give him one Tuman, i.e. 17 scudi, and bring them to us. And so it was done, for one night he brought us the body of Ibrahim half burnt and without the head. The body of Yusuf had been taken by other Christians, and I understand the guards were well paid.”¹

The Prior was careful to take the deposition of another witness, and there exists in the archives of the Order² the following statement by:

“Francisco Souza, a native of Hurmuz, who deposed and declared on oath, according to the legal forms, what he saw and heard about the deaths of Ibrahim and Yusuf, the Christian Persians: and the said Prior caused the witness to swear on the crucifix and holy Gospels to tell the truth . . . he said that, being in the service of the chief magistrate and the prison in the same building, he was present and saw them taken out of prison and had accompanied them to the place of execution . . . and was present when they were stoned and burnt. . . . The chief crier of the city on horseback went through the city and all the main streets, calling out in a loud voice that it was the king's command that all the people and faithful Muhammadans, and those who loved their religion should take stones and come with these to the gallows-place and kill by a shower of stones and burn two infidels who had abandoned the Muhammadan and embraced the Christian religion.

“ . . . Along the road . . . the Muslims were urging them to adopt the Muhammadan faith, as it was better than that of Christ (they said), the Muhammadan religion being good, the Christian bad.

“Ibrahim answered nothing, but Yusuf said that he was to die for Christ. Taken on foot all the way, with their hands tied behind them, their heads bare, and each of them with two men holding them fast by the shoulders, when they arrived at the place of

¹ The preceding narrative is based on the letter of Fr. Prosper, 10.3.1622, O.C.D. 238 d., and on the account in *En Persia*, also taken from Fr. Prosper's letters, *vide* pp. 125-32.

² O.C.D. 238 d. (Fr. Prosper).