

an expedition against the Turks, and gave instructions to Papal representatives abroad to exhort the kings of Hungary, Bohemia, Poland and adjacent countries in that sense. Alexander VI (1492-1503) dispatched "Instructions" to his legate to take steps "with Maximilian, king of the Romans, the electors, princes and whole German nation to join a confederation against the Turks."<sup>1</sup>

On the Polish front, for instance, writing to Sigismund, King of Poland, 6.9.1515, Pope Leo X (1515-23), who had indeed made a treaty with the Emperor Maximilian against the Turks, referred to

"this specially favourable opportunity offering, as We have been lately advised by letters "of the Grand Master of Rhodes that the *Sophy, king of Persia*, who now for long past had "conceived a hatred against the Tyrant of the Turks, had delegated an envoy to him" (i.e. to the Grand Master) "to say that the latter should use every endeavour to report "to all Christians and to stir up them, both kings and princes, to take arms against this "same Turk, manfully and courageously, from our side. Because, if he shall perceive us "likewise ready and armed for this crisis, he" (i.e. the Persian king) "promised of his "own free will that he on his side likewise would rise and attack that enemy in hostile "array, and all the cities formerly belonging to the Christians he would cede to the Christians themselves to hold and possess. . . ."<sup>2</sup>

This was Shah Isma'il I.

Clement VII (18.11.1523 to 25.9.1534) was, however, to suffer the cruel reverse of being attacked in Rome itself by a force of mercenaries of the Emperor's party under the Connétable de Bourbon in 1527, and of seeing his people massacred, his city and churches sacked and half ruined: it was not permitted to him to make headway against the Turkish menace. But some ten years later, though Northern and Central Europe had fallen into the toils of the Lutheran heresy with its split in unity of faith between the sovereign princes of the Empire, divided henceforth into two camps, and with the concomitant loss of England owing to Henry VIII's private quarrel with the Holy See, Paul III is to be found busy with the

"Instrumenta ligae et foederis initi inter Summum Pontificem Paulum III, Serenissimum "Carolum Imperatorem Quintum, et Illustrissimum Dominum Venetorum, necnon "Regem Romanorum Ferdinandum ob defensionem Turci et ad offensionem illius. "Anno . . . millesimo quingentesimo trigesimo octavo die vero octava mensis Februarii " . . . Romae in Palatio Apostolico. . . ."<sup>3</sup>

(The Instruments of the League and Treaty made between the Sovereign Pontiff Paul III, the Most Serene Emperor Charles V and Most Illustrious Doge of Venice, as well as Ferdinand king of the Romans for a defence against the Turk, and offensive against him, 8th February 1538.)

Such matters as who should decide the relative authority of the generals of the three contingents, and be the arbiter in controversies which might arise, had to be settled—and in fact were settled in the choice of the Sovereign Pontiff—as also that the Spaniards were to be supplied with corn free, and that none of the parties was to make peace without consent of the others. Divergent aims and jealousies could hardly be brought into harmony: for instance, the Spaniards demanded a Crusade among other things, and before long this League was broken by the Venetians on the pretext that they were not given drafts of corn and victuals

<sup>1</sup> Vide Vat. Lat. 12205. Misc. Arm. XI, 149 in Vatican, p. 256 (reference to *liber* 23 f. 119, and to *liber* 29, and *liber* 55 p. 321).

<sup>2</sup> Vide Brev. Min. 1515-23 in XL, Arm. 4, No. 95, p. 57 Vat. Secr. Arch.

<sup>3</sup> Vat. Lat. 12205. Misc. Arm. XI, 149 in Vatican, pp. 165-76 and refs. to *liber* 1 f. 28, and *liber* 8.