

“habitation of passers-by from Your royal realms. The desire of that worthy occupant of a sovereign throne has received the honour of compliance and a fate-like rescript has had the distinction of being issued on the subject. You should ever strive to strengthen the foundation of friendship and concord and intimate such objects and wishes You may have in these parts so that the royal attention may be paid towards their attainment.

“May the star of good fortune be immune from setting by the grace of the benevolent “Almighty.”

In addition to the relations and correspondence between the Holy See and Shah Sulaiman, and apart from the other envoys mentioned as delegated to him, there is note made in the letters perused of an

“ambassador from Poland, a Georgian, with whom Fr. Jerome of Jesus Mary went to Europe in April 1670.”¹

This personage, a later letter² stated,

“had Monsieur Ender, a Polish gentleman of his staff, murdered at Shamakha, a town on the Persian frontier (where Fr. Jerome was going): and the ambassador himself, who was guilty of many wrongdoings against both religion and state, having irritated the Poles against him to an extreme degree, received sixteen sword-cuts, from which however he recovered. . . .”

In the waters of the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean comparatively little is the object of comment by the missionary Fathers during the reign of Shah Sulaiman regarding the activities and rivalries of the European nations. As to the French, in May 1668:³

“Two French vessels have appeared in Indian waters, and at Cochin had been welcomed by the Dutch” (!!). . . Fr. Athanasius has been sent to Gāmbun to look after the gentlemen of the French company. . . .”

In July the same Religious remarked:

“Monsieur de Caron has arrived at Surat with two vessels of the French Company . . .” and reported, 2.9.1670:

“We French are already established in the Indies, but not yet well in Persia. Four of their vessels this year, however, came to Basra, as well as four English ships and three Dutch. . . .”

An entry of 31.5.1672⁴ speaks of:

“Monsieur Nicolas Mariage” (several times mentioned as at Bandar 'Abbas in 1669 and later) “president of the Royal Trading company for the Indies at Surat, (is) going to France for private affairs, intending to return to his post at Surat . . .”

while on the 1st January of that year a Capuchin of Georgia,⁵ who happened to be in Surat on an errand, found there ten French ships, and stated:

“the French have already established a Factory in the Persian Gulf. . . .”

¹ Fr. Angelus of S. Joseph, 2.9.1670, O.C.D. 236 i.

³ *Idem*, O.C.D. 237 d, and 30.7.1668, O.C.D. 241 d.

⁵ Fr. Joseph Antony of Rome, *S.R.*, vol. 441, p. 150.

² *Idem*, 27.4.1671.

⁴ Fr. Toussaint, Basra, O.C.D. 242 a.