

“fame spread everywhere made public that there belongs to You that greatness of spirit
“for doing brave deeds so that We reach a strong hope that, joining with the arms of the
“Christian princes against the most savage race of the Turks Your awe-inspiring might, You
“will with one accord unite and combine together to destroy it altogether and also vigor-
“ously oblige it to restore the provinces which, inflamed ever more from day to day by an
“insatiable lust of enlarging its impious domination, it has appropriated up till now.

“Now We, as is due from Our office, add strong encouragement for this objective of Your
“Highness, while We shall not omit earnestly to ask Him, at whose nod all movements on
“earth take place, to grant a prosperous outcome to the plans which You may have ordained
“to take in hand for the increase of the Christian commonwealth and Your own kingdom,
“but in particular that He will mercifully pour out the light of the Faith, without which all
“things are vain and empty.

“Given at Rome . . . the 30th April 1695. . . .”

One Religious, however, was writing from Isfahan the following year, 5.10.1696:¹

“There is not a word, nothing mentioned, of any war against the Turks. . . .”

In Europe, in fact, at this juncture the restless Turkish military machine was again at work and the European states strongly reacting to it, having learnt from the campaign of 1683 that combination could lead to success. After the death of Sultan Ahmad IV in 1695 his successor, Sultan Mustafa II, totally defeated an Austrian army and raised the siege of Temesvar. On the other hand all the Morea as far as Corinth was won by Morosini and the Venetians. In 1697 Prince Eugene of Savoy was in command and the Turks defeated. But it was not until 1699, while the Pope's legate was at the Persian Court, that hostilities ended for a time with the treaty of Karlowitz which secured to Venice Dalmatia, Morea and the Ionian islands free from tribute, and to Austria almost half Hungary, and which was signed by the Turks with Austria, Venice, Poland and Russia.

From the pen of the Archbishop of Ancyra himself no account of the nature and upshot of his discussions with the Persian Wazirs on the subject of the Turks has been noticed: but the Memorial, which Bishop Elias of Isfahan handed to the Doge and Senate of Venice at his audience, 4.3.1702,² opens with the words:

“As to the motive the king of Persia had in paying extraordinary honour to Monsignor
“the Archbishop of Ancyra . . . by according him three public audiences, gala banquets
“and two private interviews with the chief Wazir, called 'Itimad-ud-Dauleh, it was mainly
“because of the inclination, which they had at the time, of engaging in open warfare with
“the Turks, it being already 4 or 5 years since they (the Persians) gave some token of this
“in the difficulties they were making over restoring to the Sultan of Turkey the town of
“Basra, captured from the rebellious Arab prince, Shaikh Mān'a.

“For that reason both the king and 'Itimad-ud-Dauleh showed themselves inclined to enter into the
“league, which they had been pressed to join for many years past by various letters from the Serene
“Republic as well, and as they did to the latest pressing requests from the Emperor, to
“which, in the reply brought by me and translated by me in Vienna, they (the Persians)
“reciprocated in repeated and express statements their friendship, unity” (of policy) “and
“unalterable alliance.

“2. In their haste to give notice of this their goodwill to the potentates allied against the
“Turks, and not yet having any sure news of the conclusion of peace, and wishing to fore-
“stall the ratification, on the persuasion of my lord of Ancyra they dispatched a courier in
“advance, a young German servant of the Archbishop of Ancyra himself, with letters
“from the Archbishop to the Sovereign Pontiff, to the Emperor, to the most Serene
“Republic, to the king of Poland and to the Czar of Muscovy together with copies of a

¹ Fr. John Bartholomew, O.P., *S.N.R.* II, p. 173.

² *S.N.R.*, II, p. 414.