

Fr. Leander's book goes on, as regards 1731, to record that having re-formed a force of 90,000 men, Shah Tahmasp again set out to take Erivan; but at *Qazwin* changed his mind and turned towards *Sanneh* (in Kurdistan), whence he attempted to drive *Ahmad Pasha from Hamadan*; he lost the battle and had to make inglorious terms with the Turks, letting them keep Hamadan, and proclaiming an armistice.

Fr. du Cerceau's appendix, on the other hand, has:

"In 1731 the Sophi, whose army was augmented to 140,000 men, laid siege to Erivan and receiving intelligence that 50,000 Turks . . . were advanced within 20 leagues of that place in order to raise the siege, he left sufficient number of troops to continue it, and marched with the rest to meet the Ottoman army, which he attacked with such vigour that . . . the Turks . . . were obliged to retire . . . with the loss of above 16,000 men killed on the spot, besides 20 pieces of cannon taken and all their baggage. The battle lasted till night . . . the Persians took but 2,000 prisoners. After this action Shah Thomas, having rejoined his army before Erivan, summoned the governor to surrender. . . . But about this time a bloody battle was fought between the Turks and Persians near Hamadan, in which a great number of men fell on both sides, and the Turks remained masters of the field. This determined Shah Tahmasp to sue for peace, and in the meanwhile he proposed a cessation of arms, which being readily granted public rejoicings were made . . . for three days successively at Constantinople, and the Persian ambassador, who had been kept in prison there for several months, was set at liberty."

By this treaty the Turks did surrender part of their conquests as far as the Araxes, but reserved for themselves the fairest portion of the Persian border provinces. Fr. du Cerceau then quoted an account forwarded from the Court in Moscow to their minister in London:

'Some time before this treaty was in the making Tahmasp Quli Khan, generalissimo of all the forces in Persia, with great authority and power over the Shah and people, had been obliged to march with part of the Persian troops to . . . quell a rebellion of the people of Kandahar and Herat . . . he at first met with great resistance from the rebels, though afterwards he obliged them to submit, and having totally defeated them got at last possession of the famous city of Herat and, having established new governors both in that and other centres, he left it last spring in order to return to Isfahan. It was on his way home that he received the news that a peace was concluded between the Ottoman Porte and his master and, being further informed upon what conditions . . . he very much resented it and without giving notice to the Shah . . . he immediately published a manifesto in which he assumed the title of Wala Ni'amat (Lieutenant of the Kingdom) and declared that the treaty lately concluded with the Turks was very detrimental to the Persian state by giving up to the enemy the best of their provinces . . . "for that reason I, Tahmasp Quli Khan, am going in person with a numerous army against our enemies the Turks, in order to regain the provinces . . . and to procure for the Persian prisoners their liberty. . . ."

. . . Tahmasp Quli Khan with 30,000 men arrived on 15.8.1732 (old style) at Isfahan and encamped . . . in one of the Shah's gardens: three days after his arrival he waited on the Shah (who received him coldly) and on returning to his encampment put many of the Shah's domestics under arrest. On 21.8.1732¹ the Shah went in person out of the

¹ The East India Company's diary from Gāmburūn differs to the extent of one day on these historical events:

" . . . Sunday, 7.9.1732. A 'shotter' (*shatir*) from Spahan by way of Carmania (Kirman) with a letter dated 28th August, advising that on 22.8.1732 Thomas Caun invited the king to his tent where, after entertaining him very sumptuously, he seized him and put him close prisoner, and the next morning he ordered the drums to beat, when he proclaimed as king Shah 'Abbas the Third a child of his Majesty about three months old, under the pretence that his father had forfeited the throne by his lazy, indolent management, and his being a sot . . . and, 25.8.1732, he sent the king away to Mashhad under a strong guard: that he had appointed new governors to most of the provinces. . . . 3.8.1732 . . . reported that Thomas Caun would set out in 20 days for Baghdad. . . ."