

“himself to the Janissaries, who were already rioting. The Sultan came forth straightway, “as he was, and stood at the gate of the house with a stick in his hand, on which he leaned. “When the Janissaries saw him they grew quiet, and so the riot, which was being made by “many people who had run to the king’s house to learn the correctness of the facts, did “not proceed further. . . .

“. . . In those days the Sultan decided to go to Jerusalem, and the day for the departure “had been fixed, when the day previous there arrived Vlachs sent by the Baiglarbaigi of “Van, who in his letters related how the son of the Persian king with 8,000 cavalry had “made a sudden assault on Van and captured many men and massacred many of those “whom he had found outside the town, and afterwards having plundered the neighbouring “villages and done serious damage, feigning to turn back, had taken up a position in a place “suitable for attacking those who had left the town. . . .”

Two Persian spies taken were brought by the Vlachs into Aleppo for interrogation regarding the plans of the Persians.

“To show his contempt for them the Pasha had removed the red caps, which they wore on “their heads, and which stand out half an arm’s length beyond the head and is of red cloth “quilted in rolls lengthwise, and of a thickness that it can be grasped with one hand. From “this headdress they get the name of ‘Qizil-bash’, which in their tongue means ‘red-head’. “Afterwards he had them led before the Sultan, who was in a garden outside the town, “and the latter caused them to come before him and questioned them, and afterwards “ordered that they should be taken out into the fields and there decapitated. . . . With “this news disappeared the hope that all had that the ambassador from the Persian monarch “would return with terms of peace: on the contrary it was understood from those prisoners “that on the arrival of the ambassador there with the news of the death of Sultan Mustafa “their sovereign and all his people had feasted and had orgies for eight days long and that “they mocked at the demands which the Sultan made of them for concluding peace, saying “that they would never make peace unless the Turks had first surrendered to them Van, “Erzerum and Baghdad. They (the prisoners) also had said that preparations for war in “the new year were being made with all assiduity. On account of this news it was decided “that the Sultan should put off his journey to Jerusalem, and with him Sultan Selim and “all the men got ready for it. Two days later there was such a heavy fall of snow that the “country was covered with it, and for this reason the journey to Jerusalem was put off, “or so it was feigned: instead, for about twenty days they went hunting, and after the end “of the hunt the Sultan returned to the town and both Pashas and the troops began “preparations for the expedition. And so the soldiers, who till then had considered it “certain that peace would be made and that the Sultan would not trouble to go to war, “had the less hope of returning home . . . though there was not one of them in such a “vast concourse who did not go unwillingly.

“By orders of the Sultan it was publicly announced that he would set off on the campaign “on the 9th April . . . and that when they had set off for Bir on the 20th of the month “they were to make a bridge over the river Euphrates in order to pass across the army “to the other bank. . . .”

After description of an attack, made early after the New Year (then reckoned in March) 1553 by the Baiglarbaigi of Baghdad on a fortress in Kurdistan, and how he was tricked into hasty flight, leaving his camp standing, by false news that the son of the Shah was about to attack him, and how in the flight his force was ambushed by the Kurds in a pass and badly handled, so that the Pasha fell ill of vexation, and died at midsummer, and how in March too, in obedience to a summons, there came to Aleppo the Pasha of Cairo, apprehensive lest through the enmity of the Grand Vizir the fate of Sultan Mustafa should be awaiting him also, and how therefore he was relieved to find himself graciously received by Sultan Sulaiman; the