

'city to meet Tahmasp Quli Khan, who received his Majesty at the head of his commanding officers with all the respect due to his royal person and having conducted him to his tent desired his Majesty to sit down. . . . The Shah asked the General: "What reason he had "to put his domestics under arrest?" to which Tahmasp Quli Khan replied haughtily: "Because your Majesty has no need of such persons who are only kept in laziness . . ." The Shah, being very much offended, got up to go home; but the General stopped him . . . and with that conducted him to the adjoining house, where he kept him all the night.

"The next day, being 22.8.1732, the General went into his tent and assembled all the officers of his army and, being seated, made the following declaration to them: "That "the Shah was altogether unfit to govern the kingdom and had by his evil conduct brought "infamy upon their country and . . . lost a great number of Persians . . . that hitherto "they had been obliged to bear all this, for want of a successor to the Crown; but now "since the Shah has a son three months old, named 'Abbas, I think it proper to settle the "Crown upon him . . . his father I think it expedient to keep from this time under a "strong guard, allowing him during life a sufficient maintenance. . . ." Upon this there was for a while great silence among the officers; but at last some of them having approved the declaration, the General gave orders to bring him the egret's plume' (a sign of sovereignty) 'from the Shah's head. The General then sent for the Shah's wife and the prince her son, who were both publicly conducted before the army, the mother being covered, to the tent . . . a little time after the prince her son was sent back to her with the turban and royal plume on his head. Then the General ordered a new coin to be struck and new seals to be made bearing the young king's name Shah 'Abbas. . . . All the old ministers and other persons . . . of the deposed king's party were put under arrest and banished to the province of Khurasan, whither the dethroned Shah was sent, 25.8.1732, under a guard of 1,500 men.

'On 26.8.1732 Tahmasp Quli Khan was married to a sister of Shah Sultan Husain, the widow of Mirza Daudan [*? sic*] . . . On 28.8.1732 Tahmasp Quli Khan entered with all his army into the city of Isfahan and took up his lodgings in the royal palace: the same day he ordered to be set up in the Chihil Situn a magnificent cradle, in which the infant king was laid, and at the side of the cradle were put the turban, the royal plume and a sabre. Then Tahmasp Quli Khan assembled the Mullas and Sayyids and went to prayers in the presence of all the officers of the army, after which they congratulated the Shah upon his accession to the throne. . . .

. . . General Leveshol, who was at that time with part of the Russian army in the province of Gilan, had in the same month of August pursuant to articles of peace concluded between Russia and Shah Tahmasp surrendered that province . . . after which he went and encamped in the province of Shirwan, which formerly belonged to the Persians, but which is now given up to the Russian Empire by the late treaty, and appointed his headquarters in the city of Darband, where he received an express from Tahmasp Quli Khan with a written account of the deposition of Shah Tahmasp and the elevation to the throne of his son, Shah 'Abbas, in which Tahmasp Quli Khan assured the Russian general that he will keep . . . the conditions stipulated in the treaties lately concluded. . . .

'Having thus settled matters . . . Quli Khan marched with all speed to lay siege to Baghdad, before the Turks could assemble their army to relieve it. . . .'

From Julfa correspondence of the Catholic Religious affords the following commentary on the text of Fr. du Cerceau as quoted above:

"On 7.12.1729 . . . there entered in triumph into the City" (i.e. Isfahan) "king 'Tahmasp, son of the late Shah Husain . . ." ¹

¹ Bishop Fedeli, O.P., 15.2.1730, *S.N.R.*, IV, p. 537.