

reason at least was that the soldiery were well paid. According to Fr. Leander of S. Cecilia's book a soldier was paid one Tuman=5 Venetian sequins monthly. (A Carmelite Residence to maintain and two Fathers to feed and clothe was allotted an allowance of only 12½ Tumans yearly.) To provide that large regular army budget in addition to expenses on campaign required a substantial revenue and, for all that Fr. du Cerceau's quotation from the Russian report to London alleged that after deposing Tahmasp II 'when the General went into the 'Shah's palace he found a treasure of many millions which had been hoarded by Shah 'Abbas I', Tahmasp Quli Khan, even before he mounted the throne, began to extort money wherever he could find it.

Early the official European companies found his methods drastic and despotic:

"Wednesday, 20.5.1730. On instructions from Bombay the Agents at Gāmbnun advised "their Resident in Isfahan to withdraw their Factory and make the best of their way to the "coast, should representations to the Persians prove ineffectual."

From the diaries of the English East India Company at Gāmbnun there is the evidence. On 28.8.1732 the Resident from Isfahan had written that

"Thomas Caun had forced from him 300 Tumans, as he had also from the Dutch."

In December 1732 large exactions from the Dutch and English companies at Isfahan are mentioned:

"November 1734. We have already taken the step recommended to us of withdrawing, "if possible, from Isfahan.

"22.10.1734. The Resident, Mr. Geikie, wrote that he had sent away Mr. Pack with "all the Company's books and papers. . . . The Sarkar Thomas Baig had arrived in the "city bringing a *raqam* for the East India Company and for the Dutch, which was an "order to supply Thomas Baig with what number of ships he might want, well armed and "provisioned, to go any errand he should please. Refusal would mean Thomas Caun's "displeasure.

"Tuesday, 28.1.1735. 'Shotters' from Isfahan from the Resident, dated Julpha, 7.1.1735. "He is removing from the Hon'ble Company's house in the city. The governor of the city "at first a little impeded him, but on a visit to him and the Resident giving him assurances "that he would not leave Julpha and set out for Gāmbnun till we heard from Thomas "Caun . . . acquainting him our antient privileges were now refused by him, and that "we had been insulted and oppressed. The Hon'ble Company were resolved on leaving "their Residence in Spahaun. The Resident is apprehensive that, as Thomas Caun desires "to hold a General Majlis at Qazwin,¹ he may be ordered thither. . . . As to public "affairs the Resident seemed to think they carry a very bad aspect and little prospects of "tranquillity being restored and trade flourishing."

The Dutch East India Company at Gāmbnun at that time had 150 Europeans (i.e. soldiers as well as employees) in their Factory, but they were equally suspicious with the English, who

"Wednesday, 3.9.1735, went on board ships (having already sent their soldiers away) "resolved to evacuate Gāmbnun. . . ."

Those diaries also reported, under

"Wednesday, 21.5.1735, *Basra* news: Latiff Caun with his fleet had entered the river" (i.e. the Shatt-ul-'Arab estuary). "The Arabs" (i.e. from Hawaizeh) "joined him . . .",

¹ The 'sitting together', or assembly, in Arabic: commonly used in Persian of any meeting, and, specially, of the National Assembly.