

narrative goes on to relate that this Pasha took his place with the other two—of Anatolia and Greece—and

“The Sultan proceeded to discuss with them the business of the war, and they determined that the enemy’s country should be attacked from three sides, in such wise that the Baiglarbaigi of Anatolia should invade the province of Shirwan, the Baiglarbaigi of Greece that region which lies between Shirwan and Tabriz, while the Grand Signor would advance on Tabriz from the direction of Van. . . .

“ . . . When that had been settled, it was further decided that on the 9th April the Sultan in person should set off on the campaign, just as had been previously intimated to the troops. They determined, too, that 2,000 Janissaries should be sent to the Baiglarbaigi of Greece, so that he should have some of them, as the Baiglarbaigi of Anatolia also had. . . .

“ . . . On the appointed day the Sultan in person set out in the ceremonious fashion customary with him when he goes to the front. On his leaving his palace the Janissaries gave him a salute with their muskets, and the castle also with eighty cannon, and they unfurled seven standards, which are borne behind his person by seven mounted men, one of these being all white in the midst of the others—on the right three, one green, one red, one red and green. . . . By the 20th (April) all the troops were out of the town when the Sultan marched off for Bir, a place three days’ distance from Aleppo, where a bridge for the troops to cross was made without difficulty, for they had feared that it might be carried away because of the great flood which had suddenly risen by reason of the snow melting. . . .

“Before the Sultan left his pavilion he ordered Ibrahim Pasha to go to Constantinople with the greatest speed possible, giving him orders as to what he wanted done, and this Pasha set out on the day following the departure of the Grand Signor.

“Four days later there arrived in Aleppo Monsieur de Codogne¹ [*? sic*] ambassador of the king of France, who having rested three days then set out to go and find Sulaiman . . . and came up with him on this side of Karkamish¹ and on the road went forward to kiss his hand. The ambassador was received by him with great courtesy, and, after he had learnt the request of the king (of France) who asked for the” (Turkish) “fleet, on account of his quarrel with the Emperor over the business of Naples, and for other business relating to India and Corsica, he (Sultan Sulaiman) granted all that he had asked, and at once men were posted off to Constantinople on this account, with orders to the captain of the fleet . . . regarding what he had to do.”

There follows in the narrative a lengthy description of the Turkish forces being drawn up in battle array for inspection, and their tents, and of their marching past.

“Having marched the first day and pitched his first camp, the Sultan gave orders that the army should not march the next day and, having had got ready for that day a very large pavilion, he caused to be assembled the Pashas and their chief officers of cavalry and of the Janissaries, and then, having gone up to take his seat on a chair placed in that pavilion in a raised position so that he could be seen by everyone he began to speak, saying:

“ ‘Now, as you can see, we have arrived at a place whence but a short distance remains for us to march, and as soon we shall be entering the country of the perfidious Tahmasp, God’s enemy and ours. It is not ambition that I should rule over his country which has moved me to make war on him, nor yet greed for glory, which many consider to be the supreme reward of toil.’ ”

Sulaiman went on:

“ ‘Already I am so old and so troubled with infirmities that my spirit desires rest

¹ These names are so misspelt in the manuscript copy as to be doubtfully identifiable.