

“and peace and quiet more than acquiring new dominions with all the fatigues and labour and warfare involved. . . .”

and he added that a corner of Armenia, full of forests, barren and mountainous, and unpopulated in parts of it, was of small value. But said he:

“It is not permissible for me to remain at peace, and allow this most cruel Tahmasp, ever more perfidious in his perfidy, to go on constantly affronting Allah, nor is it honourable for me to allow him to go daily like a robber raiding the borderlands of my empire, causing such great losses by carrying off property, burning houses, and slaying our subjects. It is not fitting that I, who am your sovereign . . . should endure that there remain in power any longer he who in the past has used every sort of cruelty in shedding the blood of our brethren and who seeks all he can to drive us away from what is ours. . . . From my exchequer I have brought here with me for your service, as you can see for yourselves, 700 loads of gold, which are all to be spent to be of service to you! . . .”

“When the monarch had finished his speech which caused everyone to marvel greatly, because these Turkish rulers are not accustomed to make any speech in public, Ahmad and 'Ali Pashas, and then the others, one by one offered to shed their blood and give their lives readily in this enterprise and any other. . . . Then the army set out in the direction of Van . . . but afterwards . . . they marched for Erzerum, which is far out of the line of march they had been following, because from west to east they turned south to north. The reason why they did this was that they learnt that the Persian king had heard of the march of the army, with which was the Grand Signor in person, on Tabriz by way of Van, and had dispatched his son Isma'il, who is a well appointed and valiant young man, with 20,000 horse into some mountains which were across the road which the Sultan and the Baiglarbaigi of Greece were to take. Holding the centre of these mountains in their power, and knowing the passes thoroughly well, they were conveniently placed for moving down on both the (Turkish) forces, and so with few of their own men and at small trouble they would be easily able to prevent the one force from giving assistance to the other. . . . So, apprehending that the Persian king might execute his scheme against them, the Turks changed their plan and determined to unite (the two forces) and proceed together against the enemy. . . . Therefore it was that they left the road to Van and took that for Erzerum, where by order of the Sultan the two divisions arrived together before he did. . . . Further, he (Sultan Sulaiman) wanted to make provision for nothing preventing victuals and supplies sent from Cappadocia from reaching the camp: and, as each time the army went farther away from Erzerum advancing into the Sufi's country, the supply trains might easily be interfered with by the Georgians and Kurds—which would have involved a grave risk of the army being lost, or it being made to retreat suddenly—it seemed to him that it would be a suitable provision to leave a guard in that region. . . . At this juncture Ibrahim Pasha, whom the Sultan had sent to Constantinople, arrived at Brusa, which was formerly called Bithynia and had the boy of the dead Sultan Mustafa, who was there with his father's mother, taken and strangled, and afterwards buried near the tomb of his father. . . . The reason why the Sultan had ordered the execution of the boy of Sultan Mustafa is unknown, unless it be because in the army the Janissaries and soldiers, who had been devoted to Sultan Mustafa, were saying that, even if he were dead, his son remained alive and would be their sovereign, despite anyone who might not wish it: such gossip and such words had been circulating without any restraint, and it was being discussed publicly everywhere. . . . Having received the submission of many Kurdish chiefs and trusting similarly to have that of the Georgians, in order not to lose time waiting to receive it the Sultan set out with the army in the direction of the Persian king, who having left Nakhchiwan had