

"The expenditure which really issues from his exchequer is very small, because he is obliged to pay only 5,000 soldiers, called by them Qurchis, who are the guards of his person, and chosen from among the best and finest-looking people in his dominions. Nor does he pay even these in cash, but instead of salaries gives them clothing and horses, putting these at such prices as suits him. It is true that to his eleven sons, each of whom, as I have said, has a separate and dignified Court, it is not known what he gives. . . .

". . . In general they are a fine-looking race, strong and well built, very courageous and warlike. For defensive arms they use the cuirass, the targe (shield) and there are many too who wear helmets: for the offensive the sword, arrow and arquebuse, and there is not a soldier who does not use the last-named; they have brought their skill in it to such a pitch of perfection that it surpasses (what is seen) anywhere else. The barrels of these arquebuses are 7 palms¹ in length. The soldier carries less than 3 ounces of shot, disposing of it cleverly so that it does not hinder him from drawing his bow, or wielding the sword, while the shield is held attached to the saddle-bow. When there is no need to use it the arquebuse is slung behind the back with such facility that one thing does not get in the way of the other.² The horses have been brought to such a degree of fine looks and class that there is no need to import them from elsewhere: and this has come about since the death of Sultan Bayazid.³ For that prince came into Persia with very fine horses from Karamania and excellent Arab mares, which were given him on his march: and after the present king had had him killed there were some 10,000 horses and mares left. From that source there has sprung so fine a race that the Ottomans have not the like. There were also left behind by Bayazid 30 pieces of artillery which were taken to Shamakha near the Caspian Sea, not to mention money and other booty. As to the fortresses of the king, he has had the lands towards the Turkish frontiers everywhere abandoned for 6 or 7 days' journey, and the forts, that were there, destroyed, in order to protect himself, and the more so that the Turks may not be taken with the desire to take possession of them, and to hold them. . . . This king lays claim to the regions taken from him by the Ottoman emperors, beginning from the river Euphrates and in that direction as far as Baghdad, and towards the west to the district of Diarbakr and Lesser Armenia, in which are included Karkamish, Urfa, Mardin, . . . Bitlis, Van, . . . Ersinjan, Baibourt, Tokat and

". . . all together amount to the total of four million gold pieces, some considering them to be 4½ millions. In ancient times they amounted to a very much larger sum, but the tyranny of the kings, who extract five for one, has caused it to diminish. . . . Besides this, there is an infinite number of villages and manors all assigned for the pay of the cavalry, the lowest pay of whom is 100 ducats each per annum, although they extract a much larger sum, they themselves having the lands worked, and getting the triple out of it. In this manner he also has part of his infantry paid, and 4,000 Qurchis whom he has as his guards. . . . As to the expenditure he (the Shah) has 70 'sultans' (governors) who are deputed as governors of the towns, and who are paid from the treasuries of these from ten to thirty thousand ducats yearly each, but with the obligation to maintain from 300 to 400 or 500 (as the case may be) cavalry and infantry, who must all be kept ready for any service. He pays his 2,000 guards from 100 to 160 ducats each yearly, until there is an opportunity of rewarding them in the villages . . . and the majority of the arquebusiers are paid from his own treasury. These are the largest expenses the Crown has."

¹ A Roman "palm" measured about 25 centimetres.

² Compare narrative B:

"The military force, which the said king has, is 10,000 cavalry, paid as has been stated, all known men, practised in arms and entirely faithful to their king: and he could possess more of them, if he were to pay them. He has a very large number of infantrymen, of whom, they say, for any need of his he can have 200,000 or even 250,000: and it is asserted that of those 200,000 there are 100,000 arquebuse men, who are partly paid by the villages and manors, but principally from the king's own treasury. The arms used by the cavalry are the lance—not longer than 5 palms—the bow, and the scimitar, of which above every other nation they know the art, and they consider it the chief arm of all they use. For defence they wear shirts of mail, some of them cuirasses after our style. They wear armour on the right arm, as do the light cavalry for safety, when employing the sword. The horses have armour, but of plates so thin that arrows pierce them, and with it their head, breast and crupper are covered: there are 10 per cent of them like these. The infantry carry scimitar and bow, and the arquebuse men musket and scimitar.

"In his realm there are horses of supreme excellence, costing 1,000 to 2,000 scudi each, broken or schooled to riding—school after their fashion, which is to gallop, trot and turn to either hand, and which are, when mounted, most fiery and unruly, so that it would seem impossible for anyone to tame them."

³ Sultan Bayazid, already met in these pages, fourth son of Sulaiman the "Legislator", born about 1526, rebelled against his father, and his troops being beaten at Konieh in 1559, taking with him a large retinue he crossed the border and took asylum with Tahmasp I of Persia. According to this account of Alessandri Tahmasp had him killed; the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 10th ed., states that Tahmasp basely surrendered him on the stern demand of Sulaiman.