



## AMĪN-AL-DAWLA, FARROḶ KHAN ĠAFFĀRĪ

**AMĪN-AL-DAWLA**, ABŪ ṬĀLEB FARROḶ KHAN ĠAFFĀRĪ (1227-88/1812-71), a high ranking Qajar official. He was the great grandson of Qāzī Mo'ezz-al-dīn Moḥammad Ġaffārī (governor of Kāšān, Naṭanz, Qom, and Jowšaqān, 1162-93/1749-79) and cousin of Abu'l-Ḥasan Mostawfī and Abu'l-Ḥasan Ṣanī'-al-molk, the celebrated painters (Narāqī and Ġaffārī, *Kānadān*, pp. 12, 13, 70, 71). As a boy he was sent to Tehran to attend the court of Fath-'Alī Shah (r. 1212-50/1797-1834), where he became private page of the shah (*pīškedmat-e kāšša*; Sarābī, *Maḳzan al-waqāye'*, intro., p. 4). In the summer of 1249/1833 at the command of the prince 'Abbās Mīrzā, he joined the forces of Moḥammad Mīrzā (the future Moḥammad Shah) who was besieging Herat (Ešfahānīān, *Maǰmū'a-ye asnād* I, p. 1). In 1252/1836 he was sent by Moḥammad Shah to Māzandarān where he ably prevented a local rebellion. The following year he was sent to Isfahan and in 1255/1839 to Gīlān to handle similar situations (M. Ḥ. E'temād-al-salṭana, *Montaẓam-e Nāšeri* III, pp. 166, 169, 170, 174). He was present at the siege of Herat in 1254/1838 and was ordered by Moḥammad Shah to prepare a report on the conduct of the Persian army (Lesān-al-molk Sepehr, *Nāsek al-tawārīk* II, pp. 315, 317, 318, 320). In 1267/1850 Mīrzā Taqī Khan (the future Amīr Kabīr) charged him to collect the taxes of all the provinces and in 1270/1854 he became private treasurer to Nāšer-al-dīn Shah (*Maǰmū'a-ye asnād* I, pp. 6, 7). In Ramaẓān, 1272/May, 1856, he received the title of Amīn-al-molk (*ibid.*, I, p. 9). In 1272/1855-56 when Iran was besieging Herat for the third time and in conflict with England, the shah sent him as



ambassador (*īlčī-e kabīr*) to the court of Napoleon III; he was also given the mission to converse privately with the Ottoman sultan and contact the French and British ambassadors in Constantinople in order to prepare a peace treaty with the English (*Maǰmū'a-ye asnād* I, pp. 11-42). He remained for over two years in Europe, and at the insistence of the shah and Mīrzā Āqā Khan Nūrī, the grand vizier, he signed the treaty of Paris on 7 Raǰab 1273/3, March 1857 (*Maǰzan al-waqāye'*, intro., pp. 17, 25; *Maǰmū'a-ye asnād* I, pp. 209, 211, II, pp. 100, 182), thus ending the war by an Iranian retreat from Herat. During his mission to Europe, which included Mīrzā Malkom Khan as counselor (*Maǰmū'a-ye asnād* I, pp. 55, 59, 60, 64, 66, 89, 134-35, 240, 275, 325-61, 332; II, pp. 175-76), he signed friendship treaties with several European states. He was also responsible for the establishment of the first diplomatic relations with the United States, in Rabi' II, 1273/December, 1856. Much impressed by the political, social, and technical progress of the European countries, FarroḶ Khan joined the French freemasonry of Grand Orient (Thieury, *France*, pp. 35, 40; *Maǰzan al-waqāye'*, intro., pp. 22, 47). Arriving at Constantinople on his return journey to Iran, he was delayed by the intrigues of Mīrzā Āqā Khan Nūrī who (partially influenced by Malkom Khan, who had left earlier for Iran) feared that the successful ambassadorial mission might make FarroḶ Khan a dangerous rival to himself for the office of grand vizier (*Maǰzan al-waqāye'*, pp. 426-27; *Maǰmū'a-ye asnād* III, pp. 3, 6, 106, 354, 362, 365; Bakhsh, *Iran*, p. 7). Finally FarroḶ Khan reached Tehran (in 1275/1858) having accomplished a protracted and unprecedented mission of diplomatic negotiations with European statesmen; the shah commanded that a special welcoming ceremony be held (*Mer'āt-al-boldān* II, p. 233). FarroḶ Khan charged one of his secretaries, Ḥosayn Sarābī, to write the diary of the travels; the first of the two volumes is a narrative of the mission while the second describes the administrative and legislative organizations of European countries. Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah and Mīrzā Āqā Khan were so alarmed by the liberal models described by FarroḶ Khan that the publication of the book was banned (*Maǰzan al-waqāye'*, intro., p. 26; Bakhsh, *Iran*, p. 31). The first volume was only published in 1344 Š./1965. In Jomādā I, 1275/December, 1858, FarroḶ Khan became Minister in Presence (*wazīr-e ḥożūr*), bearer of the shah's private seal, and the head of the Imperial servants (*Mer'āt* II, p. 235). Convinced of the necessity of progress for his country, he persuaded the shah to have a group of students (forty-two in number) sent to Europe for training in technical and scientific fields under the guardianship of the well-known Iranist Alexandre Chodzko (*ibid.*, II, p. 235; Thieury, *France*, pp. 30-38; Maḥbūbī Ardakānī, *Tārīḵ-e mo'assasāt* I, pp. 320f.). In Ramażān, 1275/April,



1859, FarroḶ Khan received the title of Amin-al-dawla and became minister of the interior (*Mer'āt* II, p. 240). He presented to the shah a booklet in his own name (probably written by Malkom Khan) on suggested reforms for the improvement of the administration and the army and for the establishment of a parliament (*majles-e tanzīmāt*) and a cabinet (*majles-e wozārā'*; *Maǰmū'a-ye asnād*, pp. 330-50). He was also appointed as the tutor of the eldest son of the shah, Mas'ūd Mīrzā (the future Z̄ell-al-soltān). In 1276/1859 he became member of the council of the state (*majles-e šūrā-ye dawlatī*). Sir Henry Rawlinson, the British minister in Tehran (1859-60) found him "the most influential man" (Maḥmūd, *Tārīḵ* II, pp. 60f.; *Maḵzan al-waqāye'*, intro., p. 24). A. Gobineau, the French minister called him "a very clever statesman." Amīn-al-dawla carried out significant negotiations concerning Bahrain with the new British minister Charles Alison (1860-72) and the legion's secretary E. B. Eastwick, who praised him (Maḥmūd, *Tārīḵ* II, pp. 579, 589). In 1282/1866 he was considered by the shah as a candidate for grand vizier (E'temād-al-saltāna, *Ḳalṣa*, p. 58), but finally the king appointed Moḥammad Khan Sepahsālār. In May, 1866, he was once more Minister in Presence and governor of the provinces of Isfahan, Fārs, the regions of central Iran and in charge of the customs administration (*Mer'āt* II, p. 59). In the early spring of 1283/1867 he became minister of the court (Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah, *Safar-nāma*, p. 13; *Mer'āt* III, p. 68). He died on 18 Šafar 1288/5 May, 1871 from a heart attack and was buried at the shrine of Ḥāzrat-e Ma'sūma in Qom. He built many caravansarais, bazaars, houses, and mosques in Tehran, Kāšān, and elsewhere (E'temād-al-saltāna, *Ma'āter*, p. 87; Narāqī, *Aṭār-e tārīḵī*); among them his *tīmčā* in Kāšān is a splendid example of Persian architecture (Z̄arrābī, *Tārīḵ*, p. 624; Dieulafoy, *Perse*, pp. 196, 197). At his death his brother Hāšem Khan received the title Amīn-al-dawla. Among FarroḶ Khan's sons were two prominent persons, Moḥammad Ebrāhīm Ğaffārī Mo'āwen-al-dawla (1860-1918) and Mahdī Ğaffārī Qā'em-maqām (1865-1917).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also 'Azod-al-dawla Aḥmad Mīrzā, *Tārīḵ-e 'Azodī*, ed.

'A. Navā'ī, Tehran, 2535 = 1355 Š./1976, pp. 134, 271, 272.



- Bāmdād, *Rejāl* III, pp. 80-86.
- E'temād-al-salṭana, *al-Ma'āter wa'l-ātār*, Tehran, 1306-07/1889-90.
- K. Eşfahānīān and Q. Rowšanī, ed., *Majmū'a-ye asnād o madārek-e Farroq Kān Amīn-al-dawla*, 5 vols., Tehran, 1347-57 Š./1968-78.
- M. Etteḥādīya, *Gūšahā-ī az rawābeṭ-e kārejī-e Īrān*, Tehran, 1355 Š./1976.
- M. A. Ğaffārī, *Kāṭerāt o asnād*, Tehran, 1361 Š./1962.
- M. Q. Hedāyat, *Kāṭerāt o kaṭarāt*, Tehran, 2nd ed., 1344 Š./1965.
- Ḥ. Maḥbūbī Ardakānī, *Tārīk-emo'assasāt-e jadīd dar Īrān*, 2 vols., Tehran, 1354-57 Š./1975-78.
- M. Maḥmūd, *Tārīk-erawābeṭ-e sīāsī-e Īrān o Engelīs*, Tehran, 1344-45 Š./1965-66.
- M. T. Moştafawī, "Čand nasl-e honarmand dar yak dūdmān-e čand šad sāla-ye Kāšān," *Naqš o negār* 7, 1339 Š./1960, pp. 30-44.
- A. Mostawfī, *Šarḥ-e zendagānī-e man*, 3 vols., Tehran, 2nd ed., 1341 Š./1962.
- H. Narāqī, *Āṭār-e tārīkī-e Kāšān o Naṭanz*, Tehran, 1348 Š./1969.
- H. Narāqī and F. Ğaffārī, *Kānadān-e Ğaffārī-e Kāšān*, Tehran, 1353 Š./1974.
- Nāşer-al-dīn Shah, *Safar-nāma-ye awwal be-Ķorāsān*, Tehran, 1286/1869, repr., Tehran, 1354 Š./1975.
- M. H. E'temād-al-salṭana, *Mer'āt al- boldān* I-III, Tehran, 1294-96/1877-79.
- Idem., *Tārīk-e montazam-e Nāşerī*, 3 vols., Tehran, 1298/1881.
- Ḥ. Sarābī, *Maḳzan al-waqāye'*, Tehran, 1334 Š./1965.
- Lesān-al-molk Sepehr, *Nāseḳ-al-tawārīk: Salāṭīn-e Qāṣār*, ed.
- M. B. Behbūdī, 2 vols., Tehran, 1353 Š./1974.
- A. Ṭāherī, *Tārīk-e rawābeṭ-e Īrān o Engelīs* II, Tehran, 1358 Š./1979.
- A. R. Żarrābī, *Tārīk-e Kāšān*, Tehran, 2nd ed., 1341 Š./1962.



Zell-al-soltān, *Tārīk-e sargodašt-e Mas'ūdī*, Tehran, 1325/1907.

S. Bakhsh, *Iran: Monarchy, Bureaucracy and Reform under the Qajars: 1858-96*, London, 1978.

S. G. W. Benjamin, *Persia and the Persians*, Boston, 1866.

H. Brugsch, *Reise nach Persien*, 2 vols., Leipzig, 1862.

J. Dieulafoy, *La Perse, la Chaldée et la Susiane*, Paris, 1887.

E. B. Eastwick, *Journal of a Diplomat's Three Years' Residence in Persia*, 2 vols., London, 1864.

A. Gobineau, *Correspondance entre le Comte de Gobineau et le Comte Prokesch-Osten*, Paris, 1933.

A. D. Hytier, *Dépêches diplomatiques de A. Gobineau*, Paris, 1959.

J. Polak, *Persien*, Leipzig, 1865.

H. Rawlinson, *England and Russia in the East*, London, 1875, repr. New York, 1970.

J. Thieury, *La France et la Perse*, Evreux, 1866.

R. G. Watson, *History of Persia*, London, 1866.