

“. . . at Aleppo . . . for the zeal with which he maintained the interests of the Faith  
 “and for his teaching he was liked not only by Christians but also by schismatics, and was  
 “not ill-considered by the very Turks. He has learnt oriental languages, and it is thought  
 “that long experience joined to a fair knowledge of the sacred canons and doctrines can  
 “make up for what he may lack. . . . His age is 50 years, and he is free, and with no  
 “domestic troubles. They (the cardinals) agreed on the choice of Picquet. . . . In an  
 “audience given, 22.12.1674, His Holiness gave his consent.”

The proceedings were not complete, for in the General Session of 23.6.1675<sup>1</sup> it was decided that:

“His Holiness be begged (to grant) the title of a bishopric *in partibus infidelium*,”

which the Pope granted in an audience, 15.7.1675. A Brief issued 31.7.1675 assigned to Mgr François Picquet the titular bishopric of Caesaropolis. Not until 20.10.1677,<sup>2</sup> however, from Marseilles did he notify the Sac. Congregation that Cardinal Grimaldi had consecrated him a short time previously: he proposed to wait till winter was over, and then start with two Capuchins and two secular priests. He did not leave Europe so soon, for from Aix, 24.4.1679, the same Cardinal wrote to the Sac. Congregation suggesting that Bishop Picquet be authorized to settle disputes between Orders in the East, and make an apostolic visitation of Cyprus, Aleppo, Tripoli and Syria:<sup>3</sup> and another letter of the new bishop was still dated from Marseilles 4.7.1679;<sup>4</sup> but he had reached Alexandretta by 7.11.1679.<sup>5</sup> Between 20.1.1680 and 3.11.1680 he was in Aleppo—perhaps before and after those dates.<sup>6</sup> On 3.6.1681<sup>7</sup> he wrote from Diarbakr: thence he was to make direct by caravan for Tabriz, and from Tabriz he visited Abranar in Nakhchiwan, where he arrived 14.8.1681,<sup>8</sup> and whence he wrote, 20.12.1681:<sup>9</sup>

“I am here among very submissive Religious and in the midst of a small community  
 “which looks on me as its protector. Everything I order carried out: in my turn I have  
 “had to obey in two instances. They have obliged me to assume the style of an ambassador  
 “earlier than I would have wished: and, in the last place, when I was all ready to leave  
 “in order to pass the winter in Tabriz, they kept me here by dint of begging and beseeching  
 “me to do so . . . the authority of an ambassador is so great in Persia that it surpasses  
 “that of any ambassador in Europe or elsewhere. I was surprised at this, but I am not sorry  
 “to make use of it on this occasion: it is true that it will cost me heavily, notwithstanding  
 “the instructions of the king to defray” (the expenses of) “the ambassadors and everyone  
 “in their following (the latest one to come had 500). In the end I decided to pass the  
 “winter in a village, where it is very comfortless and colder than Flanders, and where in  
 “my room I have only a hole in the earth as a stove. I had to lay in a store of salt meat  
 “for the whole winter, as if on board a ship, because here they kill neither beef nor mutton  
 “during that season. The bread they eat is dough baked when stretched out flat, as large  
 “as a hat, like our pancakes in Provence; but, thank God, André has learnt to make bread  
 “and cakes.”

Bishop Picquet remained in Nakhchiwan until after the end of April (*vide* his letters of 20.12.1681: 1.4.1682: 18.4.1682):<sup>10</sup> early in July he was at Tabriz:<sup>11</sup> and on 12.7.1682 arrived in Isfahan,<sup>12</sup> seven years after he had been made coadjutor bishop, another instance of the leisurely manner in which such appointments were treated in that age. A letter of 25.3.1683,<sup>13</sup> “kept back till 5th May,” gives some account of his reception:

<sup>1</sup> See *Acta* for 1675, p. 166.

<sup>2</sup> *S.R.*, vol. 460, p. 330.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. 473, p. 76.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, vol. 475, p. 53.

<sup>5</sup> *S.N.R.*, I, p. 363.

<sup>6</sup> Letters in *S.R.*, vol. 480, pp. 340-3; *Idem*, vol. 481, p. 5 *et seq.*; *S.N.R.*, I, p. 383.

<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, p. 385.

<sup>8</sup> *Idem*, p. 392.

<sup>9</sup> *S.R.*, vol. 484.

<sup>10</sup> *Idem*, vols. 484 and 486, p. 20; *S.N.R.*, I, pp. 419-25.

<sup>11</sup> *S.R.*, vol. 222.

<sup>12</sup> *Idem*, vol. 487, p. 502, letter of 27.7.1682.

<sup>13</sup> *S.N.R.*, I, p. 431.