

Undoubtedly one principal reason for the insufficiency of the endowment fund left by the Baron di Cacurri to support both a seminary and a number of mission posts in Persia was that in the course of 70 years the money available had been used to finance entirely independent foundations in Syria, as well as places in India. A Brief of Pope Alexander VII<sup>1</sup> regarding the constitution of the Carmelite seminary outside the Porta San Pancrazio at Rome provided that:

'the income of the missions, on which the seminarists of the convent and the missionaries in the missions are supported, should be administered by the Praepositus General and Definitory General of the Order who should depute a capable Syndic, who will have charge of that and who each year will render accounts to Mgr the Secretary of the Congregation. The administration was to be confirmed, i.e. renewed every 5 years.'

In 1677 the sum received by the Seminary at San Pancrazio was 1,173 scudi: the rest of the yield of the Cacurri fund was spent on the missions.<sup>2</sup> The accounts<sup>3</sup> furnished by the Vicar General (Fr. Vincent Mary of S. Catharine of Siena) on 12.3.1678 show:

"Receipts: from the Baron di Cacurri's endowment invested in Luoghi "di Monti		scudi 1272
"Expenditure:		
"(a) on the Seminary at San Pancrazio, 24 students at present, and "rector, vice-rector and two readers in controversy and "Arabic <sup>4</sup>	900	
"(b) on 15 Religious in 5 Residences "Mt. Lebanon "Aleppo "Basra "Shiraz "Isfahan, at 50 scudi each	750	1650"

i.e. expenditure was some 380 scudi in excess of income.

Obviously the reader today finds it strange that more than half the expenditure should go to the training school, where the numbers including rectors and lecturers are almost double those maintained on the missions, and clearly many of the students would never find a place in those five mission posts (only three of which belonged to that Mission for which the Baron originally made the bequest). This was also the impression made by the system on the Visitor General who in March 1683, before returning to the East and making his visitation, wrote:<sup>5</sup>

"... a miserable provision is now made for the missions out of the proceeds of the Baron di Cacurri's endowment, which do not at present amount to more than 1,460 scudi, 800 of which are spent on the upkeep of the Seminary of San Pancrazio: this reduces the sum for the missions to 660 scudi, and this usually is swallowed up in journey expenses for the missionaries sent: for this reason we see the missions experiencing great penury...."

He addressed the Procurator General of the Order once more, 13.10.1683:

"I well know in what dire need the missions are for want of the allowances: nor did I fail to represent this to our Fathers, when I was in Rome, although fruitlessly, because

<sup>1</sup> S.R., vol. 435, p. 47.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. 465.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. 468, p. 120.

<sup>4</sup> An article signed "P. T." in an issue of the *Osservatore Romano* at the end of March 1937—"L'antico Seminario di San Pancrazio"—states that in 1662 the "Seminary of S. Paul" was removed from the convent of S. Maria della Vittoria to San Pancrazio: that the course was for 2 years, but from 1691 three years: that usually the number of students was at least 12, but in 1647 reached 47, from 1720 till the looting and devastation of the Seminary by the republicans in 1798 the students were only 5 or 6.

<sup>5</sup> S.R., vol. 486, p. 385 *et seq.*