

and thus left a bare 50 scudi each for the three first houses in Persia—Isfahan, Basra, Shiraz, calculated on a basis of 25 scudi for each of two missionaries at every one of these posts, six Fathers in all. In founding the Residence at Julfa Fr. Elias of S. Albert had committed the error of not providing a special capital fund for its upkeep; the Sacr. Congregation consistently declined to accord this Residence financial recognition. When the channels of charity dried, and the subsidy from Europe did not reach the convent and Residences other than Julfa, the penury and suffering of the missionaries became therefore extreme, abandoned and half starved as they were. Evidence can be quoted. The Procurator Substitute sent to Rome in a submission to the Sacr. Congregation of 26.8.1695 gave the following figures:¹

“1689, 1690, 1691 no allowances received from Rome: in 1692 124 sequins and 240 scudi
“only: 1693, 1694 nothing received: in 1695 425 scudi—a total of 665 scudi and 124 sequins
“instead of 2,800 due.”

As to Julfa:

“There should be in Persia 8 missionaries in the three Residencies i.e. four at Isfahan, two at Shiraz, two at Basra, *not including* those who are, and will be at *Julfa, which has undertaken to maintain itself without subsidies being sent from Rome, as in fact it has done. . .*”²

In that year also a petition was made to Cardinal Altieri:³

“The Discalced Carmelite missionaries in Persia humbly represent to his Eminence that they are in need of a financial allowance in order to continue their missions in those parts, all the more that they are reduced to extremity, and have been compelled to pawn a cross, thurible, a chalice: and, on the other hand, at this juncture with the wars between the Christian princes *the Order is too burdened to be able to provide any help.* They therefore beg their Eminences, as their only refuge, to supply that assistance, so that they may be able to feed themselves and not abandon the undertaking. . . .”

There is on record, too, a ‘bulletin’ from the Vicar at Shiraz dated 13.5.1701, and another from Isfahan of 30.6.1702,⁴ showing that the annual grants from Rome for 1698, 1700, 1702 had not been received there. Moreover, if fixed sums were allotted by the Sacr. Cong. for travelling expenses to various places in the East, these were deducted not from the gross revenue from the Cimini di Cacurri fund, but charged to the annual stipend of the Fathers in Persia: how the Fathers found money for travelling homewards does not transpire. But, 22.3.1700:⁵

‘the Procurator General of the Carmelites having asked the Sacr. Congregation to take over the indebtedness incurred by the mission at Aleppo through two Religious on their return from Persia, lacking funds for their travelling expenses, having borrowed from a merchant in Aleppo 45 sequins, on which 10 per cent interest had to be paid, which the mission at Aleppo was too poor to bear’, a minute was made:

“these missions have their assignments coming from the legacy of the baron di Cacurri
“left to the Seminary of S. Pancrazio,” [? sic]

and the order passed:

“let the sum in question be paid under the name of an extraordinary allowance to Card. Francesco Barberini and meanwhile let them be warned to beware of contracting similar obligations in future which the Sacr. Congregation will not meet.”

¹ S.N.R., II, p. 149.

² *dem.*, p. 148.

³ *Idem.*, p. 247.

⁴ *Idem.*, O.C.D. arch.

⁵ S.R., vol. 535, p. 228.