

'had returned to the hospice of the Carmelites at Julfa, as he was not in a condition to return to Hamadan—not only because of his decrepitude, he being over 78 years of age, but also because he was practically unable to sit a horse any more: and Hamadan lay ten 'days' journey distant from Isfahan.'¹

At a meeting of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide, 24.7.1714:

"Cardinal Sacripante the Prefect reported that Mgr Pidou, Bishop of Baghdad, being 'unable to reside in that city on account of the barbarities of the Turks had been residing 'at Hamadan, whence having gone to Isfahan on the summons of the king he was unable 'to return there (to Hamadan) by reason of his great age—above 78 years: . . . for which 'cause he (Mgr Pidou) desires another coadjutor. . . .'"²

On 18.9.1714, indeed, the Carmelite Fr. Jerome Francis had written³ to the Cardinal Prefect:

"Your Eminence will be aware that for two years past Mgr the Bishop of Baghdad has 'been lodged in our convent in Isfahan . . . besides other misfortunes, which have hap- 'pened to him, he has fallen into the direst poverty, because he did not receive from 'France his allowances which were substantial. . . . On the 29th of last month" (August 1714) "he became paralysed in half his body. . . . We have lent him 20 Tumans to pay 'his debts, taking them from the fund for our Residence at Julfa. . . ."

But it was at a session of the Congregation almost a year later, 25.5.1715, that:

"They" (the Congregation) "dealt with the election of a coadjutor for the Bishop of 'Baghdad and agreed in proposing Fr. Timothy de la Flèche, a Capuchin: and therefore 'the same day they issued this decree: 'In view of the great age and ill health of Aloysius 'Maria Pidou, Bishop of Baghdad or Babylon . . . the most eminent Fathers decided 'to pray His Holiness to depute Fr. Timothy de la Flèche born in France, of the Capuchin 'Order (who for several years had held the office of Procurator for the brethren of his 'Order in the kingdom of France appointed to the sacred missions in infidel regions, and 'of consultor of the Sacr. Congregation of Rites for the canonization of saints, who at 'present is Definitor General of his Order and is highly recommended for his piety, zeal, 'teaching and other good qualities) as coadjutor of the Bishop of Baghdad or Babylon, 'to have the title and character of a bishop. . . . This opinion of the Sacr. Congregation 'His Holiness graciously approved and he ordered that the Briefs appropriate to this 'matter should be dispatched.'"⁴

The Brief for Fr. Timothy, elected Bishop of Beryta, was issued, 29.5.1715: there is on record a letter from him,⁵ dated Paris, 16.9.1715, in which he mentioned that he had been pressed to start on his journey; but in a reply to Cardinal de la Trémoille from Vannes, 19.8.1716, the new Bishop of Beryta asked to be allowed to re-enter his cloister on account of his age and a terrible fear of sea-sickness, or to retain his pension in the abbey of S. Vuart d'Aras (and copies of letters from Cardinal de Boissy and others were enclosed):⁶ another reference in the *Acta* for the year 1718, p. 81, speaks also of a serious illness, from which he was not recovered, and therefore he resigned his coadjutorship.⁷ Finally the Secretary of State wrote to him, 29.3.1718:

¹ *S.R.*, vol. 593, p. 568.

² Quoted by the late Fr. L. Lemmens, O.F.M., in his *Hierarchia Latina Orientis*, 1622–1922, No. 10.

³ *S.N.R.*, III, p. 70.

⁵ *S.R.*, vol. 601, p. 471.

⁴ See *Hierarchia Latina Orientis* quoted above.

⁶ *S.N.R.*, III, p. 89.

⁷ See also *S.R.*, vol. 680, p. 487: 'he had been many times warned to set out, and not obeyed the canons and decrees of 'Alexander VII'.