

“the furniture necessary, partly on our travelling expenses, partly for our maintenance . . . in all this comes to 32 Tumans, i.e. 640 piastres; but I have left there a provision of wine, rice and butter to last up to October of this year. Of these 32 Tumans I took 15 on interest from the Indian ‘sarrafs’ of the Dutch merchants for one year . . . and I pay for each Tuman 1 shahi monthly by the kindness of these gentlemen, whereas usually here ‘1 ‘abbasi’ (i.e. 4 shahis) “=24 per cent is charged. The rest has been lent me by the ‘English merchants’ (i.e. of the East India Company): “with them at present I have a “debt amounting to 14 Tumans. . . . In Hamadan there is only Fr. John Joseph, a “Religious of much virtue, well informed about that mission. . . .”

Thus began the small Carmelite settlement at Hamadan on behalf of the Sacra. Congregation and the Vicars Apostolic of Baghdad—it was never a mission, or Residence proper.

To provide for the emergency that had thus arisen in the diocese of Baghdad in the general session of the Sacra. Congregation, 27.5.1721, the Secretary related:<sup>1</sup>

“Since, before the case of Varlet be judged or a successor be appointed, necessarily some time will pass, and considering too that the Fathers in question” (i.e. the Carmelites in Persia) “will not be able adequately to provide for the needs of the diocese in question” (Baghdad) “at least without prejudice to their own mission and Residences of their Order, for which they are assigned, if it should so appear to your Eminences’ judgment, there “could be appointed for the time being in charge of it a Vicar Apostolic to be maintained “out of the special revenues of the see, which amount to the sum of scudi 519.77. For the “post in question there would be very suitable Fr. Joseph Mary of Jesus, a Discalced “Carmelite of French nationality formerly a missionary in Persia, an indefatigable Religious “and deserving well of our holy Faith. He is now travelling in Syria, where he has pro- “ceeded for the establishment<sup>2</sup> of some hospices of their own Order in those parts. . . .”

and

“in an audience given on the 30th of that month, May 1721, His Holiness assented. The “Brief was issued on 14.6.1721.”<sup>3</sup>

The Bulls of appointment reached him 28.12.1721 in Malta, whence he proposed to start at once.<sup>4</sup>

This Carmelite Religious, who had been Vicar Provincial of the Persian Mission from 1709 to 1713 and had left it only in 1715, till his resignation and replacement in 1729 remained for all but a few months in the diocese of Baghdad, the first of its prelates to do so. By his letters he left Aleppo, 18.3.1722, reached on 17.4.1722 Mausil (where he estimated the Christians of the town and vicinity at 50,000, mostly Nestorians and Jacobites, and using five ancient churches: it was fifteen years since the Capuchins had been expelled); and leaving Baghdad about 25.9.1722, after a stay of some four months, he took up his quarters in Basra by 6.10.1722.<sup>5</sup>

The second matter of ecclesiastical discipline, which troubled the new Bishop of Isfahan, was the conflict into which he early came with the French consul at Isfahan (the name is not mentioned: whether M. de Gardanne or his successor), and the following recital affords more evidence of French assertiveness at Isfahan in this reign:<sup>6</sup>

“In the month of June last I informed your Eminence of some altercation that had “arisen between myself and Monsieur the consul for France, who with an assumption of “superiority which does not befit his position as consul wants to give me lessons in the

<sup>1</sup> *Acta* of 1721, p. 159, quoted by Fr. L. Lemmens in *Hierarchia Latina Orientis*.

<sup>2</sup> *S.N.R.*, III, p. 169; he had been repairing Mt. Carmel, and wanted to propose missions at Damascus and Beirut.

<sup>3</sup> *S.N.R.*, III, p. 175.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, IV, p. 21.

<sup>5</sup> *Vide* letters of Fr. Joseph Mary of Jesus, 23.4.1722, 12.5.1722, 20.5.1722, 6.10.1722 in *S.N.R.*, III, p. 189, 195, 197, 03 respectively.

<sup>6</sup> Bishop Barnabas, 25.5.1720, *S.R.*, vol. 634, *post* p. 335.