

session of the Sac. Congregation, 15.12.1721,¹ as his successor actually was never consecrated owing to the Bull being twice lost on the way in the disorders of the time:

“24 mars 1722. Très haut, très excellent, très puissant, très magnanime et invincible
“Prince, Notre très cher et bon amy, Dieu veuille augmenter Votre grandeur avec fin
“heureuse. Comme Nous sommes et que Nous serons toujours dans la disposition de faire
“connaître à Votre Majesté Notre attention à contribuer à l’accomplissement de ceux de
“ses désirs, dont l’effort pourra dépendre de Nous, Nous espérons que Votre Majesté de son
“costé Nous montrera qu’Elle a les mesmes sentimens à Notre égard par la protection
“qu’Elle accordera au Père Archange Ferry de l’Ordre de S. Dominique, archevêque de
“Naxivan. Nous la demandons à Votre Majesté non seulement pour luy, mais encore pour
“ses Religieux et pour tous les autres Catholiques qui doivent être sous sa direction: et
“Nous souhaitons en mesme temps que Votre Majesté ne doute point du cas que Nous
“ferons de cette marque de son amitié pour Nous et de la sincerité de celle que Nous aurons
“pour Elle. Sur ce Nous prions Dieu qu’il veuille augmenter Votre grandeur avec fin
“toute heureuse. Ecrit à Paris en notre chasteau Impérial de Thuilleries le 24 mars 1722.”

Almost simultaneously, 22.3.1722, Pope Innocent XIII wrote to the Shah a recommendation² for Fr. Archangelus Ferri, and for all Catholics in Armenia, which for the same reason probably was never delivered. . . .³

It has been previously stated that in 1719, owing to the bankruptcy of the French Royal East India Company, the Vicar Provincial of the Carmelites had found it necessary to dispatch to Paris—in order to save as much as possible of the capital of the Carmelite mission invested in that Company—the French Fr. Jerome François of S. Joseph. That he was successful, to some extent at any rate, may be surmised from the reference in that part of this work dealing with the Finances of the Mission to a special fund then created in France for the particular mission at Julfa, for which the Sac. Cong. had never allotted a yearly allowance. Now the Bishop of Isfahan wrote:⁴

“. . . On the 17th of the past month of December” (1721) “there reached here Fr. Jerome, the Discalced Carmelite, in the capacity of envoy from the Emperor.” (He brought “a letter from the Emperor, and entered the city in state, and similarly went to the first audience with the king when he presented the letter.) “He has obtained two doubloons “of sustenance money for each day, in accordance with the liberal custom of this monarch “with guests coming from foreign princes: and such money is afterwards paid from day “to day in those villages in which he stays the night. This Father has made no disburse- “ments on the journey, as he brought only one single companion with him, a Lay Brother “of his Order,⁵ and two or three servants. Yet he entered the city in state and with an “escort of the staff and servants of the French and English consuls. Some missionaries “also accompanied him on his entering into the city, and to the audience with the king “when he presented the letter. He lives in a house assigned to him by the Court, and does “not allow his business to be known, but it is supposed that it is to establish a company of “German merchants. . . .”

But in the following month, 22.2.1722,⁶ Bishop Barnabas reverted to the matter:

¹ *Vide Acta* for 1721, p. 472, quoted in *Hierarchia Latina Orientis*, No. 5.

² *Vide Arch. Secr. Vat. Epist. ad Princ.*, No. 95, p. 130.

³ The Vicar Patriarchal wrote from Constantinople, 10.12.1728 (*S.N.R.*, IV, p. 529):

“There is no hope at present of being able to send the Bulls of Mgr Archangelus Ferri, elected archbishop, . . . the “letters for the Sufi in question, which are with me, will no longer be suitable, seeing that at present the province of “Nakhchiwan is under the rule of the Ottoman Porte. . . .”

⁴ *S.N.R.*, III, p. 520, 14.1.1722, and p. 518, 10.1.1722.

⁵ This was Lay Brother Ferdinand, who remained at Isfahan till 1756 at least, the last of the Carmelites there.

⁶ *S.N.R.*, III, p. 530.