

'soon as he could dispatch some necessary business for his flock in Basra he intended to leave for Kharg island, where he would make his residence until affairs in Persia grew quieter, "if the head of the Dutch there will allow me to land and stay there". . . .'

On 11.2.1763 in fact he sailed for Kharg:¹ the sequel he told briefly in his letter of 5.7.1763:²

"In my last letter I informed the Sac. Congregation of my departure for Kharg, where I arrived eighteen days later, towards the end of last February: after having stopped there three months and ten days, consecrated the Holy Oils and administered Confirmation I was obliged to return to Basra because the Dutch governor there did not permit me to stay there longer³ on the pretext that though, true, his Company did allow a missionary Father to dwell there, they would not permit the fixed residence of a bishop. From the enclosed letter written me by the director in question in reply to one of mine before my departure your Eminence and the Sac. Congregation will understand this affair better, and be able to take those measures you may judge suitable to obtain from the gentlemen of the Company in Holland more comprehensive orders. . . ."

Although in the section of this work dealing with the Residence of the Carmelites on Kharg island the manner of the establishment and the expulsion of the Dutch East India Company is incidentally treated at some length and reference should be made to it, so that the whole will not be reproduced in this chapter, it is well to explain from extemporary recitals how the Dutch Company came to get occupation of this small island, and the Carmelites to become interested in what was before 1750 and is today the home of a few hundred fishing-folk and peasants: in the account of the work of Bishop Cornelius, whom it mainly concerned, a digression regarding Kharg is therefore made at this point. *Cont. Basra Chron.*, in its own mordant comments on human failings and in an ungrammatical eighteenth-century Latin 'slang' which might well puzzle the Regius professor of any university to translate with precision, relates that,

"11.1.1753. . . . The Dutch 'president', Baron Kniphausen, went through a rather tragic crisis. Born in Prussia of noble parentage, a follower of no religion, but clearly not unacquainted with the vicissitudes of the world, having had an excellent intellectual education and being outstanding in ability, he had landed here from Batavia, in 1750 as we noted above: in the year after his arrival he won the kindly regard and esteem of everybody; but, with fortune favouring him and becoming anon too much puffed up with the breath of applause, he thought he could turn everything upside down to get his own way, and ruin and trample underfoot others: and so he began to be looked upon with eyes of hate and malice by exceedingly many persons, among the Europeans in particular by Mr. Ellis at that time the English Resident here, and among the Muhammadans by a certain Hasan Agha, whom shortly before, by means of very fine gifts tendered by him to Sulaiman Pasha, he had had dismissed from the governorship of this town, as also by several other notables among the Turks. . . . The violent and unanimous complaints of all these persons having been reported to the Court at Baghdad at length moved Sulaiman Pasha to indignation, and 'Ali Agha, the Mutasallim here at the time, was instructed that, should the English Resident agree, he should knock on the head Baron Kniphausen's too great freedom of speech and ways of living. When he received this

¹ See *Cont. Basra Chron.*

² *S.N.R.*, VII, p. 219.

³ Baron von Kniphausen had been transferred to Batavia and a Mynheer Buschman, who replaced him and who had previously been second-in-command, turned unfriendly after his promotion. According to *Cont. Basra Chron.*, under date 11.2.1763, the Bishop had made a mistake in asking for letters of recommendation to be obtained from the governors of the Dutch Company in Amsterdam, so that his position on Kharg might thereby be strengthened. On the contrary, from Amsterdam complaints were made to Batavia, headquarters of the Company, that the Catholics were having too much liberality and rope in Kharg. This reply doubtless influenced the Dutch commandant in his refusal to allow permanent residence of the Bishop, who also was "immoderate in the display of his purple while on the island".