The report made by the Armenian Uniat priest John, son of Aratun, read by Cardinal Pamphilj in the session of 7.9.1778, stated that:

> '. . . in Bandar Bushire, a port of the Gulf now much frequented . . . there are 6 or 7 'Catholics. There the Discalced Carmelites have a small house without a church, where 'at present Fr. Louis Mary from Sienna is. He' (the Administrator) 'says, however, that 'in view of the establishment of the (English) consul, Catholic merchants will probably be 'found travelling through there. . . .'

At Basra, when the missions in Mesopotamia had once more been reduced to a skeleton, and Fr. Sebastian of S. Joseph had died at Basra in 1799,

> "the hospice was closed by the English consul. . . ."

It was that same 'English consul', officially styled then the 'Resident' for the East India Company at Baghdad, who from "master Jones', as here described, was to become Sir Harford Jones-Brydges, baronet, the noted earliest of British ministers plenipotentiary at the Court of the new Qajar dynasty in Tihran, whose merits lay not only in able diplomacy: for when Fr. David of S. Theodore had also died, Fr. Fulgentius, Vicar Apostolic, reproachfully wrote to the Order in Rome:[1]

> "I cannot do any more, because I am old. Missionaries are needed to keep up our "missions. All the hospices" (i.e. in Mesopotamia) "shut, two old men—one in Aleppo, "and I here, where plague is expected any day: I intend to leave for Basra, but . . . Here "in Baghdad the church of the Chaldaeans has been totally destroyed by the Turkish "government, and there remains no other Catholic church but ours: and, as I am leaving "for Basra, necessarily the Hospice will be closed. . . . The *only helper I have* is the English "consul, master Jones, whom God preserve for the welfare of our Houses . . .",

one more instance of the wide tolerance of Protestant official for Catholic Religious, and of the cordial relations which right through two centuries these non-English Carmelites—perhaps more than any other Order in that region of the East—knew how to maintain with English political, commercial, shipping representatives, relations gratefully acknowledged.

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Next, apart from that of the Carmelites, the several endings of the establishments of other Orders may be noted, and statements regarding the general position of Catholics in Persia at various dates placed on record.

Before 1750 the Augustinians had remained without a single Religious—the first to come, the first to depart.

One Jesuit, Fr. Grimaud, on 22.4.1749 had arrived at Basra from Europe and 'left for his 'mission in Persia', which was at Rasht, 28.8.1749.[2] A letter, copied at Basra by Bishop Sebastian, 30.4.1754, mentioned that:

> ". . . Fr. Desvignes, Superior of the Jesuit Fathers at Julfa, has been obliged after some "blows of the bastinado to hand over by *force majeure* the rest of the silverware of his "church . . .",

and on 1.5.1754 from Basra the Bishop alluded to there having remained behind in Julfa

[1] Fr. Fulgentius, Baghdad, 23.9.1799, O.C.D. 242 g.

[2] *Cont. Basra Chron.*