

“have in Muscovy and particularly in Kazan and Astrakhan, in view of the greater proximity, and this was put into effect by a decree approved and confirmed, 30.3.1760, by the late Clement XIII. . . . On 30.3.1766 the Prefect of the Capuchins wrote from Moscow that the mission at Rasht had continued to be abandoned . . . the Khan, or head of the province of Gilan, had himself many times asked for Capuchins to be sent there, promising to hand over to them the church and hospice left by the Jesuits. . . .”

As to the Capuchin Order, their convent in Isfahan city had been left abandoned from before 1745—as already noted from the detailed list made by the superior of the Jesuits in that year: so that it is somewhat surprising to find the remark in *Cont. Basra Chron.* under 4.5.1752:

“Fr. Hermengild, a Capuchin from ‘Terra Santa’, sent for Isfahan by his superiors, arrived at Basra; but, finding here that their mission there had been destroyed, on 4.8.1752 he proceeded to India. . . .”

In regard to their establishment in Tabriz, the historian of the Capuchin missions, Fr. Clemente da Terzorio, states¹ that in 1755 Fr. Innocent da Ascoli, who had a good knowledge of medicine, was sent to Tabriz: that he left Erzerum 6.5.1755 and no more was heard of his movements; while, concerning that at Tiflis in Georgia, a letter of 8.11.1756² used the words:

“when I heard that the Capuchin missionaries had been compelled to leave Tiflis I immediately tried to obtain letters of recommendation for them from the Imperial ambassador in Constantinople to the prince of Georgia, and on receipt I forwarded them to Fr. Serafin da Malta, prefect of that mission. . . .”

The Capuchin Order made an attempt to respond to suggestions for re-establishment of their mission, witness Fr. Clemente da Terzorio’s history:

“Fr. Pierre François de Tourcoing and Fr. Marie de Cambrai got as far as Tabriz, but found they could not go farther.”

Then, as to the former Jesuit mission at Rasht, thus made over to the Capuchins from 1760 both Fr. de Bernardis, O.P., from Julfa, 5.10.1764,³ urged that Capuchins be dispatched from Europe:

“I also take the liberty to suggest that . . . if it please their Eminences they should send more than one (missionary), and entrust to him the mission at Rasht in Gilan, now that the Capuchin Fathers in Muscovy cannot and will not be able to provide for it in view of the prohibition by Muscovy on missionaries in that country leaving for foreign countries . . .”,

and Bishop Cornelius from Bushire, 2.5.1765, pressed the Sacr. Congregation to place Rasht under the Capuchins of Georgia (who must, it would seem, have returned to Georgia after their expulsion of 1756):

“. . . I venture to advise your lordship and the Sacr. Congregation also to send some missionary to the mission at Rasht on the Caspian Sea. When I was in Rome . . . I was of opinion that it (the mission) might be assigned to the Capuchin Fathers of Georgia. The Sacr. Congregation thought it better to entrust it to those at Astrakhan and Kazan,

¹ Vol. III, Rome, 1920.

² Fr. Hyacinth of S. Teresa, Vicar General, Basra, *S.N.R.*, VI, p. 280.

³ *S.N.R.*, VII, p. 275.