

patriarch of Armenia, with Pope Sylvester and king Tiridates of Armenia, at a price of 500 scudi. (It would be of interest to trace that painting, if it was duly executed.) Some time during the late spring or summer of that year the Bishop of Isfahan left Rome for Spain, his intention being to have the books and accessories for the sacred rites¹ sent, for greater facility and, doubtless, more certainty of arrival, in the Portuguese fleet from Lisbon as far as Goa, and perhaps to take ship therein himself.² In order to assist the plans of the new bishop for development—and it has been seen how he regarded large numbers as essential—the Praepositus General of the Carmelites sent off by land in 1633 three recruits from the Order, in Frs. Stephen of Jesus, Columban of the Passion and John of the Cross: the Bishop of Isfahan had secured in Rome three other clerics, besides his own nephew Fr. John of the Annunciation from the Spanish branch of the Order: and in Spain he hoped also to obtain four to six priests in order to form a 'College',³ (doubtless for the Armenians).

While the party was crossing the mountains of Catalonia the mule ridden by Bishop John Thaddeus took fright and bolted, the saddle turned round, bringing the Bishop to the ground, one of his sides striking a rock with considerable force. Taken to a castle near by for the night, and next day to Lerida to be tended by the Carmelites, he expired in that town of internal injuries three days later, 5.9.1633.

To the other and biographical part of this work the reader is referred for an account of the qualities and characteristics which distinguished Bishop John Thaddeus and made him outstanding in the long list of Carmelites who have served in Persia: suffice it to say here that, although he would have been 60 years old, had he reached Persia alive, his loss was—probably—irreparable, for his influence both at the Court and with the Armenians might in the next six years both have consolidated the position of the Christians and brought the Armenians of Persia nearer to, or to actual, union with Rome. Through a strange sequence of events in the choice of successors and coadjutors his death at that juncture, while in Europe, 'put back 'the clock' in establishing Latin bishops in both Isfahan (for 60 years) and the city of Baghdad (for 100 years).

It appears that he had deposited or left a certain number of effects at Naples, for a question arose as to the ownership thereof, a glimpse of this being seen in the orders of the Sac. Congregation, dated 13.3.1634,⁴ for letters to be written to Bishop Timothy Perez in Spain:

“. . . 5 . . . For the effects left at Naples by the said deceased Fr. John Thaddeus the Sac. Congregation ordered instructions to be written to the Nuncio at Naples to trace them and place them in a safe place and send an inventory of them to the City, and also directed that the matter should be taken up with the Treasurer, so that it may be known whether the above effects are claimed by the Apostolic Chamber according to the *jus spoli*. . . .”

In one of a number of letters on record, Bishop Perez writing from Madrid, 29.3.1634,⁵ also reported to Rome:

“. . . I have not yet been able to obtain the Brief and papers which Mgr John left: there has only been recovered through his Eminence Cardinal Monti the pallium” (which was being sent by him) “for the Archbishop of Nakhchiwan: and a small clock which had remained in pawn for 300 Spanish reals, together with his other effects, which they say they have sold to pay for the dues to those who carried him to his own country,⁶ and which were insufficient; but to have that small clock I have paid 96 reals to the coachman: and

¹ and ³ MSS. *Hist. Miss.*, chap. 7, book 5, part 3.

² Fr. Dimas, in his letter of 2.11.1634 (*S.R.*, vol. 135, p. 507) mentions: “I have indeed heard from an Armenian, who had seen him in Genoa and said that the Bishop was awaiting an opportunity to take ship for Spain, in order to proceed to India by the Portuguese fleet.”

⁴ *Vide S.R.*, vol. 104, Lettere di Spagna, Armenia, etc.

⁵ *Idem*, p. 49.

⁶ Was the dead bishop taken to Calahorra for burial, then?