

As Vicar Provincial Substitute, Fr. Basil of S. Charles asked, 15.1.1700,<sup>1</sup> that the annual allowance should be received in advance, as his superiors (i.e. the Fr. Syndic) did not send it in time (providing that for 1698 half-way through 1699); while he affirmed that from the year 1680 allowances for at least six years had not been received at all: an explanation of this non-receipt of funds being required by the Sac. Congregation, the Procurator General replied that funds had been punctually remitted by the Fr. Syndic but had been addressed to Bishop Elias, who might have distributed the money without taking account of the years represented.

A statement<sup>2</sup> of

“Accounts of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers . . . in the Seminary of S. Pancrazio,  
“1.10.1701 to 23.11.1704”

gives as

“paid to the missionaries in Persia for their maintenance for the years 1702–3 1,000 scudi,”

i.e. 500 scudi per annum for five Residences, and at the rate of 50 scudi for each Father, two to a Residence. When Mgr Peter of Alcantara of S. Teresa was leaving Persia after having been there about nine years, he mentioned, 2.9.1706:<sup>3</sup>

“As the Messrs. Shariman have lost their fervour and are no longer what they exhibited themselves to be, this House of Julfa has no income on which to subsist. . . . Markar Shariman’s son, still here, for five years past has declined to pay the income from a “hammam” (Persian vapour bath) saying that this ‘hammam’ is his, and his father on “his departure had so bidden him. But we have a contract in due form . . .”,

and in 1714 this right was once more urged on the Cardinals of the Congregation from Isfahan:<sup>4</sup>

“. . . Our Residence at Julfa has also a ‘hammam’, which is in the hands of Mr. Emmanuel, of the family of the ‘Counts’ Shariman, and from which there is 5 Tumans income, but that gentleman will not pay us. . . .”

By 1719 the new Vicar Provincial<sup>5</sup> reported to the Praepositus General in Rome:

“we are in great poverty through the allowances not arriving and because of the bankruptcy of the French (India) Company, in which this mission had more than 7,000 rupees capital, on the yield from which, in addition to the allowance from Rome, it was able to support itself. Now for 9 years past not a farthing has been got from it and already our mission is 100 Tumans in debt. On my arrival I found that we owed 85 Tumans: and I in my three years as Vicar Provincial have added 15 Tumans spent in Isfahan alone, where living is very dear and to manage very parsimoniously requires 12 Tumans a year out of the 20 or a little more received from Rome for distribution among all the Residences, for each of which 6½ Tumans is the portion. The Capuchin Father, our attorney in Surat, informs me that, unless we have recourse promptly to the courts in Paris, we shall undoubtedly lose capital and interest. . . . We consider it best to send a Religious to Paris and Fr. Jerome Francis expressed himself willing to go. . . .”

Two years later, 26.5.1721,<sup>6</sup> the same Vicar Provincial, Fr. Faustin, wrote to the Order:

<sup>1</sup> S.R., vol. 538, p. 455.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. 550, p. 87, dated 23.11.1704.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. 560, p. 228.

<sup>4</sup> S.N.R., III, p. 70, Fr. Jerome Francis, 18.9.1714.

<sup>5</sup> Fr. Faustin, O.C.D. 242 b: he mentioned the interesting detail “for the table”, i.e. food, on the voyage from Marseilles to Alexandretta he and his companions had paid the captain 25 francs each.

<sup>6</sup> O.C.D. 238 g.