

“the exercise of his apostolic ministry. However, it is hoped that with the steps taken by the Sacr. Congregation, and the Briefs sent to your lordship . . . a remedy will be opportunely supplied to these irregularities. As regards the particular case of the mission on the island of Bombay, whenever your Religious are invited and summoned to look after it and can apply themselves to it without prejudice to their other missions, and when no other missionaries remain on that island, the Sacr. Congregation authorizes and permits you to take up this new mission without, however, the Sacr. Congregation making any fresh provision for it. . . .”

This on 19.8.1720 was followed by the recording in the *Acta* of the Sacr. Congregation:<sup>1</sup>

“From various letters written by the Vicar Apostolic and missionaries of the Order of Discalced Carmelites from the dominions of the Great Mogul and Malabar coast the serious straits, in which those missions are, both because of the persecution they are suffering from the Portuguese in particular, and from the Jesuit Fathers . . . can be gathered. . . .”

The Secretary to the Sacr. Congregation added that:

“. . . the warning transmitted by our lord (the Pope) to the Archbishop of Goa with regard to his observance of all His Holiness had bidden him and in respect, too, of Mgr Maurice, had brought it about that, when the Archbishop informed the viceroy of this, the latter by command of the king of Portugal published an edict to the effect that whosoever should be ordained a priest in future by any other prelate than the Archbishop of Goa should be exiled together with all his relatives from the whole of the Portuguese dominions, as well as all their property therein confiscated, while no one would be recognized as bishop except he had presented his Bulls or Briefs in the royal chancery for registration, the king of Portugal being proclaimed in all parts as absolute master of all the missions in the East.

“He” (Mgr Maurice) “goes on to represent that the missionaries of his Order in India have no other nation that protects them and assists them but the English alone, who from England have orders to favour them, considering and perceiving that the Christians under their (Carmelite) guidance live loyal to the English, whereas the Portuguese Fathers frequently induce them to rebel.

“Therefore he (the Vicar Apostolic, Mgr Maurice) earnestly begs that your Eminences will deign to accede to the desire of the ‘general’ of the English Company, who in the name also of all that Company would like that there should be cut out and excluded from the spiritual jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Goa and all Religious subject to him the island of Bombay owned as property of the Crown of England, and that it be placed under the jurisdiction of the Vicar Apostolic.

“He further adds that he has sent included with his other letters (by the same English ships which have brought his letters under reference) a patent (i.e. commission, or letters patent) in the English language, made out by the (Director) General on the orders of the directorate of the East India Company, by virtue of which he consigns to his” (i.e. Mgr Maurice, Vicar Apostolic’s) “jurisdiction the island in question and Christian population of Bombay, desiring that the churches and Catholics be under the control of missionaries of his (Carmelite) Order. He (Mgr Maurice) therefore ardently wishes the approval of your Eminences and the extension to the Briefs necessary, as he asserts that it would be a very effective method for re-establishing all the missions there. On that Mgr the Secretary may be allowed to point out that the island of Bombay . . . is inhabited by 22,000 native Catholics and some 8,000 English and heathens. . . .”

<sup>1</sup> *Acta* for 1720, p. 471, which are quoted *in extenso* by Fr. Ambrose of S. Theresia, Archivist of the Order, in his publication in its *Analecta* for April-June 1934.