

and he implored the Pope and Christian sovereigns to send letters of recommendation, as the effects of the latest mission had been nullified. He wrote again, 25.3.1713:<sup>1</sup>

“For having attempted certain charitable undertakings for the benefit of their quarter of Julfa the Messrs. Shariman have met with persecution from one of the principal royal officials and together with an Armenian vartapet were bastinadoed at the house of an Armenian magistrate. Mr. Nazar (Shariman) who was worse treated than the others is still after five days feeling the ill effects of the bastinado and unable to walk. . . .”

And he explained in October of that year:<sup>2</sup>

“. . . Your Eminence sees to what a pass we are coming: therefore I again beg you, as I petitioned you eight or nine months ago, for some efficacious intervention with the Shah by a European sovereign: otherwise, when least we are thinking of it, there may arise a sudden tempest and sweep away everything in a deplorable shipwreck, without any remedy. Already one hears of various proposals and claims by these Persians against the ‘Franks’, i.e. the French. But under the name of ‘Franks’ all Europeans are included, and we Italians shall suffer, too. Pontifical Briefs in the past, even when presented by mere missionaries, had a good effect. . . .”

He referred especially to the

“great danger in which the mission at Tabriz lay—the schismatics had for a long time past been uttering threats: and lately there had been an embroilment owing to an excommunication pronounced by Fr. Peter against an Armenian who pretended to be a Catholic . . .”;

while at Julfa the schismatics were the more irritated because of the success and zeal with which Fr. Cherubin, who in 1694 had been driven out of Julfa with the bishop, was running schools for the Carmelites and preaching. In letters of 29.11.1713; 10.12.1713; 7.3.1714<sup>3</sup> the (Dominican) Vicar Apostolic continued to report to Rome on the subject:

“the schismatic Armenians had instigated the issue of, and obtained orders from the Court of Persia or from the governor at least that the Catholic church of the Capuchins at Tabriz should perform no function under pain of a penalty of 50 Tumans, and that the cross and bell should be taken down . . .”;

and, 29.1.1714:<sup>4</sup>

“. . . I have taken several steps to repair the (damage done by) persecution of the mission at Tabriz, but all in vain. . . .”

Pope Clement XI had indeed, 25.11.1713, written a Brief—in very mild terms for what the situation appeared to warrant—(Arch. Vat. *Epist. ad Princ.*, vol. 90, p. 2):

“. . . With a confident mind We earnestly entreat of the greatness of Your heart, well known and most celebrated throughout the whole world, graciously to support those same missionaries, as often as the matter should require, and by Your authority and help strenuously to protect them from slanders, molestation and ill-treatment, with which ever and anon they have been wont to be harassed, whereby they may be able to dwell everywhere freely, and without any impediment and attend to the duties of their office. Moreover We recommend to Your Highness with the same insistence and absolutely from Our heart all Catholics dwelling in Your very wide realm whom although separated

<sup>1</sup> S.R., vol. 589.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, vol. 574, 2.10.1713.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, vol. 600, p. 125.

<sup>4</sup> S.N.R., III, p. 436.