

“The roads being ever tighter closed and the risks ever greater through the proximity of two enemy armies on the borders of Hamadan. . . . If the (Afghan) king makes war, it will certainly be very bloody and savage, and there is no appearance of peace. Meanwhile while we are passing through the greatest calamity and suffering. . . .”

He continued:

“6.II.1727.¹ From the year 1719 up to today no money has been sent to me, and from the year 1721 till today, it appears, no letter has been sent to me, nor at least has any reply reached me: so that without money, without replies and without any counsel or directions, how can this mission exist?”

and again, 17.II.1727:²

“. . . As to my personal condition, I am without money, replies, or any letter from the Sacr. Congregation for many years now, and more recently without any reputation in the eyes of the Messrs. Shariman, who have received a letter from their brother stating that the letter of exchange has not been completely honoured . . . that I should live and die poor will be to the glory of the habit I wear, but that I should die with debts contracted so obligatorily will be a great dishonour to the office with which I am charged,”

and, 6.I0.1728:³

“. . . The money remitted by the Sacr. Congregation not yet having reached me . . . I have been at last obliged to draw a new bill of exchange for 300 scudi on M. Jacques Rousseau, a merchant of Geneva. . . . For seven years now I have received no replies from the Sacr. Congregation . . .”,

and still, 6.5.1730:⁴

“it is now more than 7 years since I received any letter from the Sacr. Congregation, save a duplicate of exchange. . . .”

In that pass the page has to be turned, only to expose to inspection a chapter of history still more tragic for the Carmelite and other missions, still more stained and broken and confused for Persia.

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¹, ² and ³ *S.N.R.*, III, *post* p. 546.

⁴ *S.R.*, vol. 668, p. 580.