

Julfa in August 1730 (but returned to Basra in April 1731) considerably before August 1740 had become Vicar of Julfa—perhaps after the raising to the episcopate of Fr. Philip Mary in 1736—and was there apparently till his death in 1744. Fr. John Baptist of S. Elias, who first appeared named in the Residence at Basra in May 1738, had been sent after some months by the Vicar Provincial to Julfa, there remained until some time in 1741, when he again left for Shiraz, having failed to learn Armenian and been given permission to return to Europe.<sup>1</sup> Fr. Dominic of S. Romuald had wished to transfer from Basra to Isfahan in order to be near his relative Bishop Philip Mary; and when permission was refused by his Vicar Provincial he chose to return to his province in Europe.<sup>2</sup> But Fr. Cornelius of S. Joseph, who joined the mission at Basra in March 1739, “was called into Persia” by the Vicar Provincial in 1742,<sup>3</sup> and presumably there remained till his return to Basra as ‘Visitor’ before November 1746. Fr. Sebastian of S. Margaret set out from Italy for Basra in November 1741, and had become Superior at Julfa before May 1745.

It may be deduced that by the time of Nadir Shah the Catholic community in Julfa had increased considerably in numbers for on 8.3.1736 Fr. Emmanuel wrote from Baghdad: “the ‘missions in Persia are all tranquil, thank God, and making progress’”, and in his letter, 29.5.1745,<sup>4</sup> Fr. Sebastian of S. Margaret stated:

“Now will be the time to make a substantial church here in Julfa, in which the numbers “of the people who, thanks to God, grow from day to day, may be able to find room more “comfortably: that (church) we have being not a little too cramped . . .”

while, according to the Latin report submitted in Rome by Fr. Emmanuel of S. Albert, 1740:<sup>5</sup>

“the city of Isfahan . . . allows only Muhammadans as inhabitants except for a few “households of European merchants and missionaries . . . whose ministry, as far as the “Muslims is concerned, is limited to baptizing children in peril of death. Julfa . . . has “only Armenian inhabitants to the number of 15,000 or 20,000: and up to one-third of them “have embraced the Catholic Faith. . . .”

As to the Carmelite Residence at Shiraz, restored to some extent at least after the death there of Bishop Fedeli in 1731, very little has been noticed in the archives during the present search.

“On 28.8.1732 Fr. Joseph Dominic of S. Rose<sup>6</sup> first went to Isfahan . . . afterwards “I sent him to Shiraz to be a companion to Fr. Cyril of the Visitation, Vicar of that “Residence. . . .”<sup>7</sup>

Fr. Cyril himself, after nearly twenty years’ continuous service as vicar of Shiraz, had been to Bandar ‘Abbas, no doubt in quest of alms from the European merchants, and on leaving to return to Shiraz died on the journey after 10.4.1736. “Only seven or eight families of the “Armenian rite are to be counted in Shiraz, but many traders pass through it,” mentioned Fr. Emmanuel in his report written in Rome, 1740.<sup>8</sup> Under 1738, *Cont. Basra Chron.* makes the bare mention, without explaining the circumstances:

<sup>1</sup> Vide *Cont. Basra Chron.*, folio 30.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, folio 7.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, p. 37.

<sup>4</sup> *S.R.*, vol. 729.

<sup>5</sup> and <sup>8</sup> *S.N.R.*, IV, p. 577.

<sup>6</sup> He had arrived at Basra from Baghdad, 22.6.1732, bringing a Brief from Pope Clement XII to the Shah (Tahmasp II, presumably), recommending the Carmelites, dated 16.7.1731. (See vol. 104, *Epist. ad Princ.*, 2nd part, p. 1, in Arch. Vat., text in appendix.) After the usual complimentary prologue it ran:

“ . . . On that account We ask and ardently request of Your Highness that You will cherish with Your wonted royal “benevolence and protect Our beloved sons the Religious of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, who occupy themselves “with missions in those extensive dominions of Yours, and that You will accord them the assistance of Your authority “in any needs of their calling and duties. . . .”

<sup>7</sup> See *Cont. Basra Chron.*