

“from Media and from the principality of Bayazid on the west: Erivan on the north. In length it is about 26 hours' march in extent, in width about 8 hours.”

(Report of 1758: “The capital bears the same name as the province—Nakhchiwan.”)

“(2) In this province the Latin Archbishop has jurisdiction over nine villages—Abranar, Kushakan, Abrakunis, Chahuk, Karagush, Sapunis, Karna, Santak, Canzak. In addition “in the principality of Bayazid there is the tiny village of Kazzuk under the rock of Maku.”

(Report of 1758: “In this province the Latin Archbishop has no suffragan bishops, “and no fixed revenue, but at the time of the grain-harvest, according to usage from “olden time, he issued a general letter of blessing, and, in token of respect, the people “gave him as a stipend in wheat and barley the value of about 4 scudi. In addition “those who got married before their wedding went to receive the blessing of the arch- “bishop and were wont to give him as alms a coin worth 2 paoli.”)

“(3) The families thirty years ago” (i.e. about 1742) “totalled 1,800 Catholics. Because “of the savage warfare the majority left the country, so that two years ago” (i.e. 1752) “at the time of the last invasion by the Afghans about 320 remained, of whom many “perished of famine one year ago.”

(Report of 1758: “When I was a simple priest, 30 years ago, they reckoned 1,800 “Catholics of Communion age besides about 250 infants and children; but eight years “ago, after having suffered very great losses and borne intense tribulations in the savage “wars, on the barbarous invasion of the Afghans supervening they abandoned their “homeland and all they possessed there, fleeing in troops to Smyrna in order to have the “benefit of the public profession of the Catholic religion, in which they were born. . . .”)

“(6) The church at Abranar has always served as cathedral.

“(7) There are eight churches” (names of the dedications follow as already given in the previous chapter).

(Report of 1758: “The churches at Abranar and Kushakan, which were already “ill-supported by boards and beams which had perished have now collapsed: only “pieces of the enclosure wall remain.”)

“(8) In every village there are either ‘Turks’ (i.e. Muslims) or heretics. The ‘Turks’ “have mosques, but do not interfere with the exercise of the Christian religion. The “heretics, who are Eutychians, have churches in Abrakunis, and in Chahuk, and do not “disturb the Latin Christians, in view of the Farmans of the kings of Persia in favour of “the latter. Two of their priests together with 18 laymen a few years ago made a Catholic “profession of faith. In the villages subject to the heretical patriarch there were to be found “Catholics, who from time to time came into our villages secretly to make their confessions “and hear Holy Mass and receive the Holy Sacraments, and then return to their homes.

“(9) The convents of the Dominicans adjoin the churches in Abranar, Kushakan, “Abrakunis, Chahuk, Karagush, Sapunis, Kazzuk, Karna: in Santak, there being only “one family of eight persons, they used to come to Abranar.

“(10) Of the 35 Dominican Religious 7 survive, the others having died: and these seven “in the last looting and sacking of the district fled along with the people. Now that of the “remnant alive in the village of Chahuk, according to the register of names sent to me two “months ago, there have collected more than 140 persons, one priest has been dispatched to “take spiritual charge of them, and another a month ago to look after those in Abranar and “Abrakunis, villages about half an hour's distance the one from the other. Many died of “famine in these two, and of the living about 120 remain in the vicinity of Bayazid, and “another priest has gone to collect them.”

(Report of 1758: “Of the 35 I have known 30 are dead”—i.e. two had died in the previous six years—“of the five surviving three are in Smyrna, hearing confessions in “Armenian and preaching a little during the year: the fourth is in Thyatira, a place in “Smyrna, 16 hours away approximately, where there are some few Catholics, natives of “Nakhchiwan: the fifth is in a village three days away from this port, where 18 Catholics, “also natives of Nakhchiwan, live.”)