

“a Jesuit unable to travel because of an infirmity of his legs. . . .”

From *Cont. Basra Chron.*, too, it is known that Frère Brazin, a French Jesuit lay brother, arrived at Basra, 23.6.1755,

“he had come by orders of his General to relieve the surviving Father in their mission at Julfa, Père Desvignes, and be a companion and comfort to him, as he was an invalid. He waited 13 months in this House of ours at Basra and then, when at length the Father in question quitted Julfa, he himself” (i.e. Frère Brazin) “set out on his own way by a French ship. . . .”

But the invalid Fr. Desvignes,

“25.9.1757,<sup>1</sup> when he had already entered the river” (i.e. the Shatt-ul-'Arab estuary) “from the sea, departed this life . . . and his corpse was brought here” (Basra) “and buried in the cloister” (i.e. of the Carmelite church).

The report by Cardinal Antonelli in the session of the Sac. Congregation, 17.3.1760,<sup>2</sup> stated:

“The Jesuit Fathers had two missions—one in Julfa, the other at Rasht in the province of Gilan on the Caspian Sea. They abandoned the first” (Julfa) “because of the continual molestations they began to suffer in the risings, and the second” (Rasht), “so as not to be obliged to leave one or two Religious in a place distant from other missions of the Company.

“The last Jesuit Religious (at Rasht), who left by orders of his superiors and is now in Syria . . ., suggested” (to Bishop Cornelius) “that Rasht be joined to Astrakhan, where the Capuchins have a flourishing mission. . . .”

Then on 16.2.1764<sup>3</sup>

“the General of the Company of Jesus joins to his profound respect his humblest thanks to Mgr the Secretary of Propaganda Fide for the views, which the latter has courteously deigned to give him regarding the cessation of the persecution, and it being possible to reopen the church at Julfa in Persia, which his” (Jesuit) “Religious used to have. In this connection he (the General) has the honour to tell Monsignor that . . . already several years ago it suited the Jesuit Religious to abandon the missions in Persia owing to the impossibility of keeping them up, and that in 1760 he” (the General) “himself ceded in perpetuity to the Capuchin Fathers the mission at Rasht near the Caspian Sea. The dissolution of the Company in France, whence the missionaries for Persia were taken, having supervened, and therefore means of providing for those missions having failed, the General leaves unconditionally and voluntarily in the hands of the Sac. Congregation the church and mission at Julfa, renouncing any and every right he might have to them, so that the Sac. Congregation may provide the Christian community there with other workers to keep it in existence, and extend it, as he desires, for the welfare of souls and glory of God. . . .”

In the session of 30.7.1770<sup>4</sup> of the Sac. Congregation Cardinal Strappanij reported that:

“when . . . this” (the surrender by the General of the Jesuits) “was reported in the session of 7.3.1760 it was decided to unite that mission to others which the Capuchin Fathers

<sup>1</sup> *Vide Cont. Basra Chron.* of that date.    <sup>2</sup> *Acta* for 1760, p. 149.    <sup>3</sup> *S.N.R.*, VII, p. 254.    <sup>4</sup> *Acta* for 1770, p. 291.