

den *Stellenwert* der Mission im politischen Kalkül der französischen Regierung mag gesagt werden, wenn der Vergleich mit imperialistischen und missionspolitischen Unternehmungen seitens der übrigen Mächte in China möglich ist.

(Forts. folgt)

MILL HILL MISSIONARIES IN AFGHANISTAN  
AND THEIR STAY IN QUETTA-BALUCHISTAN \*

*By Arnulf Camps O. F. M.*

V

*The Hyderabad Collection*

The thirty-eight documents of this collection are published here for the first time.

*1. To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

L. J. C.

Jhelum, Pentecost Sunday, 1879.

Dearest My Lord,

Here we are at Jhelum, where we arrived safe and sound, thank God, on Friday afternoon. But here our trials have begun. On our arrival we found that our luggage had not come, though it ought to have been here already on Thursday. I wanted the Station-Master to telegraph at once, but he thought that yesterday's mail would bring them, so we resigned ourselves to the inevitable and made the best of it. However neither yesterday's mail, nor today's mixed train has brought it. Unfortunately it contains all my faculties as well as all our church furniture etc. To make matters worse there is no chance of even hearing Mass today. Here we are then, on Pentecost Sunday, and no chance of performing our christian duties. If there were only a church here, we could

\* Vgl. ZMR 51 (1967) 13—25.



put up with the inconvenience of waiting a few days longer, though it involves considerable expense. Pray for us that we may be spared similar situations. Today I realize for the first time, what it is to be in an infidel country. Pentecost! and no Mass to be heard, much less to be said. If we only had our altar things etc. Well, God's holy will be done. No doubt, He will know to bring good out of this evil.

Please remember us kindly to all the good fathers, whose great kindness to us, we shall never forget.

Permit me, my Lord, to express to you once more our sincere thanks for the great charity you displayed in our regard, and for the very valuable suggestions you kindly imparted. We can never repay the debt of gratitude we owe you, but what little there is in our power, we shall always strive to do.

Your Lordship's humble servant  
in the Sacred Hearts,  
Fathers *BROWNE* and *ENDHOVEN*.

2. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

Kohat, July 9th, 1879.

Dearest My Lord,

Many thanks for your kind letter, which followed me to Lundi Kotal in the Khyber, where I was looking after the sick. In my last, I told you that we were detained at Peshawar, owing to the want of necessary instructions from headquarters. In the meantime the Capuchin Fathers returned from the front to Peshawar, though the cholera was raging all along the line. As no answer had yet arrived from the Adjutant General, and having learned that some 12 catholic soldiers had died at Lundi Kotal, crying for a priest, but unable to have one, I went to the Military Authorities and volunteered my services for the time being. Thank God, they were accepted and I reached Lundi Kotal on June 18th. I at once visited all the hospitals, and administered the sacraments to several. I remained there about ten days during which time, though the cholera was raging fiercely, thank God, we had but one catholic death, and that a most edifying one, a poor young soldier, 23 years of age, who had never been to confession in his life. His first confession, a most sincere and contrite one, became also his last, as he died the same night invoking the Holy Names and asking as his dying request that the rosary I had given him, should be buried with him. R. I. P. When I left there was but one dangerous case of a catholic, to whom also I had administered the sacraments after a long abstention from them. The rest were all in a fair way of recovery. I learned however from Fr. Endhoven, who had meanwhile been officially recognized R. C. Chaplain of Lundi Kotal, and who had come to relieve me, that after my departure the cholera had burst out a fresh and that he had several deaths. By the same order that appointed him to Lundi Kotal, I was appointed to Korum, and am now on my way there.

But it is dreadfully slow work; owing to the unsettled state of things and the miserable state of the roads the journey from here to Ali Kheyl, though 152 miles, will take about a fortnight. This condition of things is far more fatiguing than hard work in hospitals. However, „what can't be cured, must be endured“ therefore with God's help patience.



I have received one letter from the other two fathers, and they are even in a worse plight, being detained at Jacobabad by the floods, with a prospect of having to wait for weeks.

I am glad to learn that Father Browne made his retreat and gave such edification — also that he left without becoming a Jesuit, as we couldn't afford to lose him.

Many sincere thanks for the great interest Your Lordship takes in our Mission and for your kind offer of your valuable assistance in case of need. Encouraged by your kindness I shall not fail to avail myself of your promise, whenever occasion may require. In the meantime please pray for us, as we, too, shall always remember you in our prayers.

Please remember me kindly to all your good fathers, who were so kind and gracious to us during our stay at Bombay.

Yours sincerely  
in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
GEO. A. M. R. BROWNE, M. A.  
Sup. Afghan Mission.

N. B. My address will most probably be Ali Kheyl, as the largest number of European soldiers is stationed there. Will you again kindly favour me with a few lines.

Yours GAMRB

3. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

Quetta, 22 July 19

My Lord,

When we were with Father Peters<sup>24</sup>, the Rev. Father insisted upon, that we should hear confessions all along the route, at Succur etc. In compliance with his wish we did so; had we My Lord the supposed jurisdiction?

Another reason induced me also to write this letter. Being here in Quetta, we found out that everything was as yet unsettled. Moreover, we got orders, that both of us should proceed to Kandahar or withdraw with the troops to Pishin; out of all this we gathered, that it will be impossible to do anything in the way of building a chapel during the course of this year; we have some money for this purpose, and should like now to have it put in one of the banks of Bombay. Having experienced your kindness, we freely ask His Lordship to come to our aid in this business. We leave altogether to His Lordship, in which bank he is going to put it, and at what percents, for we cannot judge about these matters,

<sup>24</sup> Father KONRAD PETERS S. J. was born 10. 3. 1834, arrived in the Bombay Mission in 1865, and died 16. 2. 1903. During twenty years he was doing apostolic work in different places of Sind. — Cfr. A. VÄTH S. J., *Die deutschen Jesuiten in Indien, Geschichte der Mission von Bombay-Poona (1854—1920)*, (Regensburg 1920) 242 and 113. We know that he was a parish priest at Sukkur from April 1881 until October 1887: cfr. INNOCENT LAURENSSE O. F. M., a. o., *St. Mary's Church Sukkur 1885—1960*, s. a., s. 1., 14.



not knowing which is the safest. Please My Lord, have it deposited for one year, without withdrawing it during the space of that time.

Receive this sole bill of exchange the value of thousand Rupees. An answer to this letter will very much oblige.

My Lord,  
Your most humble servant,  
J. ALLEN, M.A.

Please send the letter to the following address:

J. Allen,  
R. C. Chaplain,  
Quetta.

4. *Right Rev. Dr. MEURIN S. J., Vicar Apostolic of Bombay.*

Perwar Kotal, August 27th, 1879.

Dearest My Lord,

When I had the pleasure of enjoying your hospitality at Bombay, Your Lordship was so kind as to tell me, that whenever I had any difficulty, I might always confidentially apply to you. Your Lordship's goodness of heart has prompted you to repeat the same in the letters, which you deigned to address to me. I am now to avail myself of your charity in two matters.

1st. With regard to our departed Father van Eyndhoven (I may as well now use his true name). He was engaged at Lundi Kotal about three weeks; what steps must I take to get his pay? It amounted to about 260 Rupees. By the rule of our Society, whatever is acquired in the Mission belongs to the Society. Now as Superior of the Mission of course, it is my duty to look after it. As you have no doubt had similar cases, I appeal to you for your information.

2nd. I am about to establish Temperance Societies in the various Regiments composing this Division, taking as a model and guide in everything the society you have established in Bombay. Could these be affiliated to your General Society? But whether they can or not, would you send me about 150 of the initiatory medals and silk cords, as well as a copy of the card of admission? If they can be affiliated, I should like to have the same number of cards, as of medals. If Your Lordship can have these necessities sent to me, will you please at the same time have the bill sent, so that I may provide for its payment. I should like to have them before the 12th of next month as on the following Sunday, I shall have to inaugurate two such societies. Hence if you can send, please send by regular mail, as the banghy dak<sup>25</sup> is very uncertain here.

3rdly. I have received the backnumbers of the Pastoral Gazette, as well as 4 numbers of the Examiner, the best being that of August 9th. Since I have received none, as I had expressed to Your Lordship a desire to subscribe for it, I supposed these four numbers had been sent as a beginning of the subscription. But as the paper has ceased coming, I must conclude that Your Lordship only wishes to gratify my selfconceit by showing me my name in print. I hope it will now be sent regularly and I will remit the subscription at the same time that I remit for the medals.

<sup>25</sup> One should read: bahngi dak (parcel-post).



4thly. As to the Masses for the Pastoral Gazette, I shall, God willing, finish them about the middle of next month as I have but seventeen more to say<sup>26</sup>.

And now business being attended to, as to myself. I had a very severe attack of fever and ague about three weeks ago, but now thank God, I am again hearty. I have visited my extensive chaplaincy. You know it reaches from Kuram Point to Ali Kheyl, about 36 miles, with seven European Military Stations. As all these Stations have to be visited in turn, I am often on the move. Ali Kheyl, Perwar Kotal and Kuram being the chief I am at each of these stations every Sunday. The other stations I have to visit on weekdays, except one three miles from here, which I always visit on the same Sunday that I have services at home. Thus every third Sunday I have two Masses to say and twice to preach.

It is really deplorable to see how careless these soldiers are. It seems as though the greater the dangers they have to encounter, the more careless they become about their immortal souls. Very few have made their Easter duty this year and many are of old standing. It is so hard to get them to realize the necessity of approaching the Sacraments. You will be astonished when I tell you that though I have been here at Parwar Kotal over five weeks, I have heard but four confessions, one a sick man, but all of old standing. They promise to come but their promises are never fulfilled.

Still Ali Kheyl affords me great consolation. Though I can go there only every third Saturday and can spend only two days there, yet the results are very cheering. But I have a very good coadjutor there in the person of Surgeon Major Bourke, who zealously aids me and works among the men during my absence. I was there last Sunday and I had about 30 communicants, twelve of whom I also confirmed. The most of them were old cases. Of the twelve, whom I confirmed, the youngest was 21, the oldest 37 years old. There are some more under preparation for my next visit. Now and then I even find one who has never been to confession in his life. The religious spirit seems by God's grace awakened at Ali Kheyl, and at my next visit I expect to have at least 30 or 40 communicants, twelve of whom want to be enrolled in the Scapular of Mount Carmel. So you see, while on the one hand I have my griefs, on the other hand I have again great consolations.

Please pray for my soldiers, especially for those here at Parwar Kotal, that their hearts may be softened, and they too may return to duty. Pray also for me that while I am trying to show others the way to heaven, I may not myself become a reprobate. I am more than 180 miles from the nearest priest, and hence thrown back entirely upon myself. God is good and will listen to your holy prayers and will give me many graces in consequence. Ask all your good fathers to pray for us all in this infidel land, surrounded by countless dangers of body and soul.

Please give my kindest regards to all your good fathers and believe me,

sincerely and gratefully yours

in the Sacred Hearts,

GEO. A. M. R. BROWNE.

Miss. Apost.

<sup>26</sup> *The Catholic Examiner* is a weekly edited from 1850 onward; the *Bombay Pastoral Gazette* first appeared in 1872; cfr. J. H. GENSE S. J., *The Church at the Gateway of India 1720—1960* (Bombay 1960) 476 and 300.



5. *Notes of reply to above letter by Bishop MEURIN: dated September 28th, 1879.*

1. Apology: not the slightest offence! Letter remained with Examiner.
2. I had such a case and had to get from Europe certificate from the brother of the deceased and pay to me. But try — I believe you will succeed claiming it as the Superior to whom he was indebted. If they make difficulties ask whether he wanted a legitimate certificate of the nearest relation. You would get it, but it takes some time and trouble, that you hope they will spare you that trouble.
3. In the next number of the Pastoral Gazette you will find the Revised Rules of the Temperance Society. Your soldiers can be aggregated. Note that we admit only total abstiners, and that you are moving to the front, and that I do not know how many and what medals you would require. I must wait for further orders: the price of the medals are: (v. Temperance Society); one is oval with the Blessed Virgin on one side and St. Joseph on the other. The round medal has St. Patrick and the Blessed Virgin, both are very nice. The admission cards are printed I cl. in red, and II cl. in green. The diploma is chromo-lithograph, sent from London.
4. As for payment, I have opened an account with your mission. We got from Father Allen 12 August 1000 Rs. a 4% payj 951.10.2: the balance is still in his favour: do you want us to keep separate accounts for each of you.
5. I am very sorry I cannot at once satisfy your temperance wishes; but on hearing from you once more, I shall try to satisfy you.

6. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

L. J. C.

Perwar Kotal, September 18th, 1879.

Dearest My Lord,

One the eve of starting for the front and for Kabul, I take the liberty of once more addressing you a few lines to ask Your Lordship's prayers as well as those of your good fathers. Everybody thought peace was secured at last for a few years, and behold in a moment the illusion is dispelled and grim war with all its dire consequences again stares us in the face. As Your Lordship can easily imagine, I am very busy; for there are so many things to look after, when one is about to start on an expedition that may for a time cut him off from all communications with the civilized world. I came very near losing another priest; Fr. Burke, whom I had ordered over from Kandahar to Lundi Kotal, took sick on the road from Quetta to Jacobabad and was for more than two weeks confined to his bed at the latter place from fever and exposure. Thank God, he is now allright again, and I got a telegram from him this morning that he had arrived at Lahore. So I expect he will soon be with the Khyber force. Why has not Your Lordship answered my last letter? Have I in anything offended. If so I humbly ask pardon. I enclose certificate of my having exonerated the Masses, which I hope will prove satisfactory. Should Your Lordship deign to reply to this, please still direct to Parwar Kotal, whence the letter will be forwarded on to me. Asking Your Lordship's blessing and hoping that you are in the enjoyment of the best of health,

I remain,  
Your Lordship's humble servant  
GEO A.M.R. BROWNE, M.A.



7. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

L. J. C.

Kabul, November 17th, 1879.

Right Reverend and Dearest My Lord,

It is now turn to apologize for the long delay in answering your kind letter of the 28th of September, which I did not receive until October 24th owing to the irregularity of the post. In fact for a while we had none at all either coming in or going out. Besides, when it did go out, there was no certainty of its reaching its destination in safety; hence I delayed from day to day and allowed a number of letters to accumulate.

2. I cannot today write at length owing to pressure of time, and hence I must leave a description of our march from Ali Kheyl to here as well as my experiences here for another letter, which I hope to write you, Deo dante, next week.

3. Many sincere thanks for the kind information contained in your letter. I have been anxiously waiting for the „Pastoral Gazette“ containing the revised rules of the Temperance Society; but as yet it has not come to hand. In fact I have received no copy for some months; nor does the „Examiner“ come regularly. We are now settling down here, and I shall soon be able to do something for temperance cause. Please, then, have the new rules sent to me at once.

4. With regard to good father Endhoven's pay I am now unable to do anything owing to the altered circumstances in which I find myself. I will, however, as soon as I can write to the Paymaster General about it, adopting your suggestions.

5. As to the accounts Fr. Allen has opened with you, I presume they were private funds of his own which he donated for the purpose mentioned. Hence I think it advisable that a separate account should be opened called: „Afghan Mission General Account“, while his might be called „Afghan Mission Church Building Account“. Both should, however, for the present and until other arrangements are made stand in the name of the Superior and Vice-Superior of the Afghan Mission (Father Allen is the Vice-Superior for the time being). And no draft should be made on it, without the written consent of the Superior.

6. I shall send you a remittance place to the credit of the General Account as soon as I can make arrangements to draw some of my pay, as I have drawn none since August. I will then also Deo dante send you about 400 Rupees for the Church Building Fund.

And now, asking to be kindly remembered to your good Fathers and begging a special blessing, I am,

Most gratefully your's  
in the Sacred Hearts,  
GEO. A. M. R. BROWNE, M. A.  
R. C. Chaplain,  
Kabul Field Force.

8. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

Candahar, 30th January, 1880.

My Lord,

When I arrived this morning from my visit to Khelat-i-Ghilzar, I found a telegram from Father Browne on my table, by which I was informed to ask kindly



His Lordship of Bombay to invest the money in question.

I cannot draw my pay from the Field Treasury chest at Candahar; wherefore the Pay-Master at Rawalpindi writes me, that my Pay-Bill for four months has been passed for Rs. 1458.5.11 and are detained pending receipt of my reply as to the Treasury, on which I want the amount.

Our mission does not want for the present this money, for we cannot do anything before the war is over; would you, My Lord, kindly oblige Father Browne and me, to invest this money which you can draw from the Treasury chest at Bombay; as I wrote the Pay-Master of Rawalpindi that this amount was to be transferred to the credit of the Right Reverend Dr. Leo Meurin, S. J., R. C. Bishop of Bombay.

You will have heard, my Lord, that God is trying our poor little Mission, Father Endhoven died, Father Burke has gone back to Madras, his Reverence got a sunstroke on the way down to Jacobabad : so only we two of the four priests are left. Three however have come out to join us and our stations are as following: Father Browne, Cabul — Father Roger, Kurrum — Fr. Temme, Lundi Kotal — Father Jackson, Quetta till other troops come up — and your obedient servant, Kandahar. Fr. Temme will come on with the British Regiment under orders to Kandahar, and I shall move on with the troops to Ghazni.

Allow me to ask for His Lordship's prayer; I confess the greatest cross I have to bear up with, that I never enjoy the company of a priest.

Your most obedient servant,  
My Lord,  
J. ALLEN, m. a. R. C. Chaplain.

*9. To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

L. J. C.

Kabul, February 4th, 1880.

Dearest My Lord,

Pax Domini sit semper nobiscum. It is a long time, since I did myself the honour of addressing a few lines to Your Lordship. I wrote last on November 17th, fully intending to write again the following week. But from various causes I was unable to carry out my intentions.

As you know, I received an accession of three more priests in November, and I fondly hoped to be able to have one with me, the other two being intended respectively as companions and assistants to Frs. Allen and Burke. But in this I was doomed to a terrible disappointment. First, I found that I could not bring another priest here, owing to various difficulties in the way. I had just reconciled myself to this, when I got news of Fr. Burke's serious illness and complete prostration. He was a second disappointment, and I was forced to send another priest to Lundi Kotal in his place, at least temporarily. I had scarcely done this, when I learned that I could no longer count on Fr. Burke, as he would in all human probability never sufficiently recover to bear the hardships of this Afghan climate. I now resolved to put the two who had just arrived, together at Lundi Kotal. But a requisition came from Government for a chaplain to the Kurrum Force; so I was forced to send one there. Then I got a letter from Fr. Allen that he could not get permission from the military authorities to bring his companion to Kandahar, and so he was to remain at Quetta. Finally, I learned, that Fr. Burke was much better and about to offer himself to the Vicar Apostolic of Hindustan for the Agra Mission. Is this not a long chapter



of accidents. Yet I am, thank God, happy and contented, for I clearly see that such is His Holy Will, and that must be done. My health, so far, is excellent, God be praised; and I have my hands full of work, which is another reason for being grateful to Him.

2. Father Allen will shortly send you a cheque for something over Rupees 1000, which is to be credited in our joint names as Trustees. Will you kindly invest the greater portion of it, as you think best, leaving a certain amount to meet current expenses. The Rupees 1000 which Fr. Allen sent you before, were his own private funds and are to remain in his own name; they do not belong to the Mission fund. As for myself, I have drawn no pay since August, and the Government now owes me for five months. When I draw my pay, I too will send you a large amount to be added to the Mission Fund.

2. I have never received the Pastoral Gazette, containing the revised Rules of the B. C. T. Society: will you please send it to me, as I want to organize the society here at once.

3. Lent is about to begin and Easter is fast approaching. Might I ask the great favour of you to send us the new Holy Oils, after they are consecrated? Please let me know and I will then send you the different addresses to which they should be sent.

4. It is so long since I was honoured by a few lines from Your Lordship, that I am afraid I would hardly know the handwriting any more.

5. The air is once more filled with rumours of another gathering of the Ghazis<sup>27</sup> for the purpose of giving of another brash. If they come, they will, with the help of God, be driven back again more fearfully cut up than the last time; for we are now far better prepared than before and we are still adding to the strength of our position.

6. Our hospital is full, mostly pneumonia cases. This gives me considerable work, as I visit the hospital at least once every day, going from ward to ward and a word to say to everybody.

Please write me a few words of cheer, for I have seen no priest since July 3rd and am not likely to see one for the next six months. Pray for us all.

Asking your blessing, I remain,

Most gratefully yours  
in the Sacred Heart,  
GEO. A. M. R. BROWNE,  
Superior Afghan Mission.

10. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

Kandahar, 30th March, 1880.

My Lord,

I received your kind letter, which caused me such great joy; for I got by it again more courage in this trying state. It is not so much the weather nor the fear of the enemy (though life, it is true is not safe here, for it is our daily occurrence,

<sup>27</sup> Afghan Forces. Sometimes written as Ghaznys.



that one of our men or of our followers is killed by these so-called Ghaznys); but it is the isolation, that tells upon me. I did not see a priest for eight months; till finally Father Jackson arrived here on last Wednesday, so I have enjoyed company for a few days; but now again we are in camps, to start to-morrow for Ghasni. Father Jackson remains here at Kandahar and I am going to Ghasni; who is able to tell, when I shall see a priest again? There is a little chance, that Father Browne will come on with the Force of General Roberts to Ghasni, but what seemed to be certain a few days ago, is now again contradicted by everyone.

However, I can still say, with all my heart fiat voluntas tua, for I know, I do the will of the Vicar of Christ and of my superiors, and this thought that my work comes directly from the Sovereign Pontiff has ever since given me strength and consolation in all my difficulties and trials.

I feel quite sure, your Lordship, does not forget me in his prayers and I recommend myself in the prayers of all your priests.

As I cannot draw my pay on Field Treasury Chest, I drew it again on the Treasury of Bombay, payable to you, My Lord. The pay of two months amounts only to 123-2-6, as I had deducted 600 Rs advance Treasury; I kindly ask your Lordship to invest it.

As long as we are on Field service, I shall have to do this every month. I have experienced now already so very often your kindness, that I have no scruples to go on as I have been doing now already for many months and to draw it on the Treasury of Bombay, payable to the Right Rev. Dr. Meurin, S. J., R. C. Bishop.

My kindest regards to all  
the fathers  
My Lord,  
Your most affectionate in Christ  
J. ALLEN, R. C. Chaplain.

### 11. Immediate

No. 645

Military Departement

Bombay Castle, 1st April, 1880

From,

The Secretary to Government,

To,

The Right Reverend the Roman Catholic Bishop.

Right Reverend Sir,

The Government of India having proposed that the Reverend Mr. Jackson, a Roman Catholic Priest at Quetta, be appointed Chaplain to the Roman Catholic troops of the 1st Division quartered at Kandahar, I am desired to request an expression of your opinion on the proposal.

I have the honour to be,  
Right Reverend Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
MACDONALD, Colonel  
Secretary to Government.



12. *Reply*

No. 568 of 1880

From,

The R. C. Bishop of Bombay

To,

The Secretary to Government, Military Department

Bombay, 1st April, 1880.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of this date I beg to state that the district assigned by H. H. the Pope to my spiritual jurisdiction does not extend beyond the limits of the Bombay Presidency.

Afghanistan has been assigned as a new Apostolic Vicariate to the Very Reverend Mr. George Browne as Provicar Apostolic, residing at present at Kabul.

The Reverend Mr. Jackson is one of the priests under the jurisdiction of the Very Reverend Mr. Browne, and can therefore with his consent be appointed chaplain of the Roman Catholic troops at Kandahar.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours m. o. s.

L. MEURIN

R. C. Bishop.

13. *To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

L. J. C.

Kabul, April 4th, 1880.

Dearest My Lord,

Pax Domini sit semper nobiscum, quia Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus. Many happy returns to you of the glorious feast of Easter; may God long preserve you for the Vicariate of Bombay and the good of the Church in India.

Many thanks for very kind letter of March 23rd. You are right in your opinion about Quetta, as it is in the extreme north of Baluchistan, and also never formed part of Sind, unless that country was a part of Sind. Quetta is on the very frontier of Afghanistan and I have all along believed that it belonged to my jurisdiction. Moreover, I think that your informants are mistaken about the Bombay troops being stationed there now. From letter received from Fr. Allen, I learn that they were to proceed to Kandahar, so as to allow General Stewart's force to march on Ghasni. Besides the number of Europeans there, has never been large enough for Government to allow a chaplain for that place. I had Fr. Jackson stopping there at the expense of the mission, for several months, but when the march on Ghasni was determined upon, Fr. Allen wrote me that the troops at Quetta were to advance on to Kandahar. As he wanted to accompany the advancing force, I asked Government to appoint Fr. Jackson to Kandahar. I have not yet any information as to whether he has left Quetta. Should however my information be incorrect and should a sufficient number of European troops be left at this place, then, of course, I shall have to ask Government to establish a chaplaincy there. In that case, if the war continues, owing to Fr. Burke's defection, I shall be short of a priest. If you could in such event loan me one, you would certainly be doing me a great favour and conferring a great boon upon our poor soldiers. It would certainly



be a work *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*. But as the elections seem to be going strongly against the Government, I suppose we shall all soon have to leave the country, at least for the time being. God's holy will be done. If we must recommence the work and penetrate into this benighted country in disguise, well it may ensure us the much coveted crown of martyrdom. Pray for us and get all your dear good fathers to do the same. Certainly it will be a great loss of prestige for England in India as well, if the liberal programme be carried out, but it will be a much severer blow to our mission. However, God is all-powerful and invariably brings good out of evil, and so I do not despair, but still cry out: „*Sit nomen Domini benedictum*“.

How should I welcome Your Lordship to Afghanistan, if ever I should have the happiness of meeting you here! But that is too good to be even hoped for.

My September pay has not yet arrived, but I send you another cheque for Rs. 90 annas 8, which I have cashed. Please present it at once and place the amount to the credit of the Afghan Mission Fund.

You say nothing about the Admission cards to the P. Abstinence Society. Have you despatched them? The branch is slowly growing and in my next I hope to give you some details.

Your most grateful and affectionately

in the Sacred Hearts,

GEO. A. M. R. BROWNE, Miss. Apost.

14. To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.

L. J. C.

Kabul, May 14th, 1880.

Dearest My Lord,

Sad is the intelligence that has come to me from Madras. Good Bishop Fennelly<sup>28</sup> has been called to his reward. It is a terrible blow for the Vicariate; but God's holy will must be done. I have ordered each of my priests to say three Masses for the repose of his soul, and have said the same number myself. May God have mercy on him and grant him eternal rest; and may he likewise give Madras a worthy successor to so worthy a Prelate. Two holy bishops within so short a time to have been taken from the poor struggling Indian Church. Well God knows best. „*Sit nomen Domini benedictum, quia Deus dedit; Deus abstulit*“.

I hope Your Lordship has by this time with the help of God completely recovered your usual strength and health. In your absence good Fr. Clarke<sup>29</sup> replied to my letter of April 4th, enclosing cheque for 90/8. In replying to his letter I again enclosed cheque for 266.12.8 for our little fund, which I hope has been received and cashed. Today I enclose cheque for Rs. 127 (one hundred and twenty seven) on Grindlay, Groom and Co, for the same fund. I have also sent in my Pay Bills for October, November, and December amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 1026.11.7, and have ordered the cheque to be made payable

<sup>28</sup> According to *The Catholic Directory of India for the Year of Our Lord 1964* (Bombay 1964) 203, Rt. Rev. STEPHEN FENNELLY was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Madras in 1868.

<sup>29</sup> A. VÄTH S. J., *op. cit.*, 242: Father NICHOLAS CLARKE S. J. was born 21. 6. 1843; he joined the Jesuit Order in India in 1863, was ordained a priest in 1868, and died 22. 12. 1887.



to you at Bombay. When you receive that cheque, I will have sent you for Fund Rs. 1751.0.3.

I have not yet received the Holy Oils. I hope they will come soon.

You are no doubt aware that Borneo has been assigned to our Society. There is question of making Fr. Allen the first proprefect — a very good choice.

Another priest of mine, Fr. Temme from Paderborn Diocese, will probably send you Rs. 600 or 700, if he has not already sent, for our fund. You see we are saving up.

I must be brief today. Hoping that Your Lordship is again enjoying the best of health and asking a special blessing on our poor Afghanistan and ourselves, I remain,

Your Lordship's  
most grateful servant  
in the Sacred Hearts,  
BROWNE.

*15. To the Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, Mgr. L. MEURIN S. J.*

L. J. C.

Kabul, June 7th, 1880.

Dearest My Lord,

Pax Domini sit semper nobiscum. Many sincere thanks for your very kind letter of the 29th ultimate. I do hope that your absence from Bombay has been the means of completely restoring your health and your strength.

I am very sorry to have been obliged to give your Lordship so much trouble about the Holy Oils; and I do hope you were not offended at my telegram. In my letter of April 30th to Fr. Clarke, I had mentioned the fact that the Holy Oils had not arrived; in that letter I had also enclosed a cheque for Rs. 266.12.8. which, if it had fallen into wrong hands, could easily have been cashed as it was a negotiable cheque and had been receipted by me. It is true, I had registered the letter, but sad experience has proved that even registered letters are not always safe. As the entire month of May had passed and no Holy Oils had arrived, nor any reply from Fr. Clarke, I had naturally grown anxious. Inconclude, therefore, as I was about to telegraph for the Holy Oils, I would also mention the cheque, and as I mentioned one, I thought it best to include all. I can only repeat, that I hope your Lordship has not been offended; for certainly no offence was intended, and if I have caused you any annoyance by this course, I beg of you kindly to forgive me. A cheque of Rupees 1026.11.7 of my backpay for October, November and December made payable to your Lordship, was sent from Rawalpindi to your address, as the Paymaster informed me sometime in the latter part of May. I hope it has reached you safely. If not, please let me know by telegram.

Your Lordship is right in saying that Fr. Allen is taken from me, it will be „allright for Borneo“, but that „I will be the sufferer“. For independent of the fact, that he is the only one now left me of those who came out with me, he is of such true, sterling worth, and has won such high commendations from General Stewart and all, who have come in contact with him, that he will indeed be a serious loss to our young mission. Yet, Fiat voluntas Dei — Sit nomen Domini benedictum.

Has poor Fr. Burke drifted down your way yet? Poor man seems to have lost his senses completely. He last wrote me from Allahabad two most insulting



letters such as he could never have penned, had he been in his right mind. Do pray for him; I have written to our Superiors to have him recalled to England, as I am afraid, he will never again be fit for work in a hot climate, with such piercing sun, as that of India. It is such a pity; he seemed so strong and so healthy. But again *Fiat voluntas Dei*.

Glory be to God, that the good Bishops of India have been so unanimously in favour of holding of a Council. To tell you the truth, I had often thought of the matter myself, but I felt, that it would be a presumption in one so recently arrived in the country, to even broach the subject. Now, however, that the matter has been started, I feel that a step has been taken in what seems to me, the right direction. From what I have been able to learn there seems to be such a variety of practices and customs in India and such discrepancy even with regard to Holidays and Fast and Abstinence days, not to speak of other matters, that even if the council succeeded only in the establishment of a uniform rule for these, a great would be achieved for the general edification etc. of the faithful. I feel that with God's blessing great general good will result, and I am sure that it will be very pleasing to the Holy Father, that India has herself taken the initiative in the matter.

As to the withdrawal of the troops from Afghanistan, I believe it will take some time before this can be carried out, politicians to the contrary notwithstanding. Things are not by any means settled though General Stewart seems to think he now has it all in his own hands. If we have to withdraw it will, no doubt, be a great blow to us; but on the other hand, while here we can do little or nothing for the people, as General Stewart has set his face determinedly against all missionary enterprise. Things would have been different, had General Roberts retained the command. But here again: *Fiat Voluntas Dei*.

As far as any special advantage to Holy Mother Church to be derived from the fact of our having a Catholic Viceroy, is concerned, I am afraid, like yourself, that it will be very little. The only thing, wherein I do expect something will be done is the education of our poor. He is such an earnest man on this question and has therefore laboured so hard in the matter, that I am sure he will do all in his power to aid our schools and to increase their number and efficiency. Beyond this I have little or no hope, except what he can and will do in his private capacity and by his good example.

I have for a long time thought of the propriety of asking our soldiers to contribute their share to Peter's Pence; and I have at last sent the enclosed quasi Pastoral to all my priests. I think we ought to be able to get together at least 500 Rupees and that would be something from men exposed to privations and dangers.

In conclusion, I must repeat Your Lordship's word: „let us pray for one another and for our dear flocks“. For especially for men in the field is much earnest prayer needed, surrounded as they are by so many temptations, and apt as they are to grow careless of their religious duties.

I remain Your Lordship's most affectionate and grateful though unworthy servant, in the Sacred Hearts.

*GEO. A. M. R. BROWNE, M. A.*  
Sup. Afghan Mission.

N.B. I forgot to mention that it is proposed to call our mission the „Vicariate of Upper India“, but its southern boundary is not yet determined.

(Schluß folgt)