

those dioceses in 1536 and 1537;<sup>130</sup> (3) similar requests had been forwarded to the diocesans of Seville and Orense in 1538 and 1539;<sup>131</sup> (4) actual possession of a benefice in the parochial church of Pucudia, diocese of Cuenca, had been conferred sometime before April, 1545.<sup>132</sup> Of the favors in the above list, only the last can be said with assurance to have carried with it any financial reward; and even it reverted to Juan Sánchez in April, 1545, shortly before Morales's final departure from Rome.

After the dedication, the pope seems still to have found nothing more tangible with which to reward Morales than further promises—or at all events P. José M. Llorens, who valiantly searched in the Secret Archives of the Vatican (1952-1953),<sup>133</sup> could find no evidence of anything except further promises. The penury of notices concerning benefices actually conferred, and financial rewards actually obtained, contrasts strikingly with the record of Victoria, who returned from Rome possessed of benefices paying the large sum of 1,200 ducats a year.<sup>134</sup> The financial disparity between Morales and Victoria upon leaving Rome is confirmed by the fact that Morales on his return was so poor that he had to go into debt immediately (at Toledo, where he occupied the chapelmastership from August 31, 1545, until August 9, 1547). Victoria on the other hand was so well placed financially that he could afford to refuse two of the most lucrative chapelmasterships in Spain—those at Seville and Saragossa—both of which could have been his for the asking.<sup>135</sup>

It is certain that for other reasons Morales's last months in the choir cannot have been happy ones. The new episcopal intermediary between pope and choir, Ludovico de Magnasco (bishop of Assisi), though not yet formally in charge of discipline, was already heartily disliked.<sup>136</sup> On Morales's last Holy Saturday, while the pope and several cardinals were present, two of the oldest choir members flew at each other during the blessing of the new oils, shouting in a loud voice and scandalizing the pope, along with everyone else present.<sup>137</sup> On Easter day Blas Nuñez and another singer caused a scandal in the presence of the pope and cardinals by calling each other names in a loud tone of voice.<sup>138</sup> Recurring incidents of this kind indicate considerable tension in the choir during Morales's last weeks. A contributing factor may have been the wrangling over what provisions to include in the new *Constitutiones Capellae Pontificiae*, then in the process of being framed. On Easter Monday (April 6, 1545) a committee of six was elected to sit with the bishop of Assisi to compose the new constitutions.<sup>139</sup> But because the new rules touched every singer, every one wished to have a part in framing them. The old constitutions had been destroyed in the 1527 sack of Rome and during the intervening period oral tradition had prevailed as an insecure guide. Morales's part in drafting the new constitutions can have been small at best; but a place was left for his ratifying signature