

## THREE DOCUMENTS OF THE YEARS 1855—1857 ABOUT TIMOTEI CIPARIU

### SUMMARY

The documents published here are to be found in the Blaj collection of the State Archives in Cluj-Napoca, the personal archives of Alexandru Sterca-Șuluțiu (call numbers 167, 168 and 170). All of them reflect the efforts of the zealous archbishop of Blaj, Alexandru Sterca-Șuluțiu, spent during the years 1855—1857 in order to obtain the nomination of a counsellor or inspector general over the Romanian schools patronized by the greek-catholic church. The vacancy of the above post occurred in the year 1854 with the appointment of Gabriel Dorgo to member of a committee which was meant to solve the problem of damages to be payed to the landowners, once feudal lords, for having lost their rights to villein socage as a consequence of the agrarian law of 1848.

The archbishop's concern was alerted by the subjection of the Romanian greek-catholic schools to the control of the roman-catholic inspector Károly Fesztl, an exponent of the interests of the Hungarian upper classes. The intention to subordinate the Romanian schools to a representative of the Hungarian roman-catholics trespassed the recently gained autonomy of the greek-catholic church, obtained in 1853—1854, when Blaj was raised to the rank of an archbishopric. Among the objections brought against Fesztl was his lack of knowledge of the Romanian language and culture.

No argument brought in favour of Timotei Cipariu's appointment as an inspector over the greek-catholic schools in Transylvania could convince the Minister of Education, Leo Thun, to accept Șuluțiu's request.

It was only after the Habsburg absolutism had been replaced by a liberal constitutional government, in the autumn of 1860, that the Romanian greek-catholic schools obtained the nomination of a coordinating counsellor or inspector, however not in the person of Timotei Cipariu, but in the incomparably less significant person of Ioan Pop Maior.