

vessel of unslacked lime ; then buried in moist earth, but whose body, nevertheless, " was not allowed to see corruption." Three times since its final burial in Goa, the Portuguese capital of the East, the Saint's tomb has been opened. The last of these occasions was on December 3, 1878, the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. The result of the examination of the relics is told in the following terms by Bishop Leo Meurin, S. J., Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, in a letter to a brother Jesuit. We owe this letter to our excellent Oriental friends of the *Catholic Examiner*, whose files also furnish us with an account of a similar examination in 1859, from the pen of Bishop Canoz. But for this we cannot find space to-day. Bishop Meurin, S. J., writes :

" I hasten to fulfil the most cheerful duty of giving you an account of my pilgrimage to the shrine of our glorious brother, the Apostle of the Orient, St. Francis Xavier, whose body, miraculously preserved up to this day, has just been exposed to the admiration and veneration of the faithful. I do not intend to speak of the past, of the travels, labors, virtues, and miracles of our Saint, nor of his death on the 2d of December, 1552, on the island of Saucian, the door to China, which death closed to his insatiable thirst for souls. I only wish to call to your memory the following historical facts : that his body was placed in a coffin filled with unslacked lime, for the purpose of accelerating decomposition, so that the bones might be ready to be removed at the time of the return of the Portuguese to Malacca ; that on re-opening the coffin on the 17th of February, 1553, more than two months after the burial, the body was found uncorrupted, and, on an incision being made in the thigh, fresh blood issued copiously from it, a fact which repeated itself when, on the 23d of March of the same year, the body was hurt whilst being placed in a