

Volume was made public in 1717, and the earliest Letter is dated in 1699. The 25th Volume was pub-

That of above fourscore *French* Missionaries, who have set out within these fifteen or sixteen Years * for *India*, and *China*, several suffered Shipwreck, viz. Fathers *Barnabé*, *Nivet de Thionville*, and *Philip Avril*. That contagious Distempers, catch'd either in attending on such Soldiers and Sailors as were sick on Board the Ships, or on *Christians* and *Heathens* ashore, swept away great Numbers, as Fathers *Rockette*, *de Serlu*, *de St. Martin*, *Richard*, *Ducha*, *de Beze*, *Archambaud*, *Marcel le Blanc*, *Maximin Michel*, *Paregaud*, *Geneix*, *de St. Lou*, *Burin*, *Dolzé*, and Brother *Daudy*: That others suffered a long Imprisonment, wherein they were cruelly treated by *Heathens* and *Hereticks*; as Father *de la Briülle* in *Siam*, Father *d'Espagnac*, who died in Captivity in *Pegu*; Father *Tachard*, *de Beze*, *Coluffon*, *Marcel le Blanc*, *Comilh*, *Peter Martin*, *Beauvossier*, and Brother *Moricet*. You may easily figure to yourself the Multitude of Sufferings, of another Kind, which await a Missionary, who comes into a Country, with whose Language, Manners, and Customs he is wholly unacquainted; and yet is forced to conform to them, with regard to the Way of Life, Dress, and other Articles of civil Society. Heaven only knows the Persecutions which are raised against them by the Enemy of our Salvation. It may, in some measure, be affirmed, that whatever *St. Paul* relates concerning his Persecutions, suit all our Missionaries, in part; and perhaps some particular ones among them, wholly.

The Letters writ by our Fathers, will inform you of the only Circumstance which can repay their various Toils and Sufferings. They convert, annually, many thousand *Infidels*; and tho' their Life be exceedingly painful and austere, Heaven softens it with so many Consolations, that they are afraid these should subtract too considerable a Portion of their Recompence.

What Zeal soever may be shewn, in procuring those who toil in this Manner, the small Necessaries they cannot absolutely do without; the Labourers are so very numerous, that there is not wherewithal to support them. In compliance with the holy Ardour of many who desired to engage in these Missions, and to assist the Wants of such Nations as sued for our Aid, it was found necessary to send a great Number of Missionaries, all of whom were obliged to rely merely on Providence: And as a considerable Number of Establishments were made, it was thought proper to divide them into two *French* Vice-provinces, one in *China*, and the other in the *East-Indies*.

* This must be now about forty, or one and forty Years since. Letter. in 1712.