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## A JESUIT MISSION IN INDIA.

BY REV. EDWARD STORROW, BRIGHTON, ENGLAND.

The Portuguese found their way to India before any other European nation, in 1497. From the beginning they were zealous, after their fashion, in the spread of the Roman Catholic faith, but their zeal, being neutralized by great moral laxity, commercial greed, and political ambition, the "European idolaters," as they were called, made but few and mostly doubtful converts. But it was seen that India presented a splendid field for the propagation of the faith, so Xavier was selected as "the apostle to the Indies." He went with every human advantage. Ignatius Loyola sent him forth with the inspiring words, "Go, my brother. Rejoice that you have not here a narrow Palestine or a province of Asia in prospect, but innumerable kingdoms; an entire world is reserved for your endeavors." The pope conferred on him the authority and dignity of Apostolic Nuncio throughout the East, and commended him to the respect and protection of all princes and governors. The King of Portugal sent him with every demonstration of interest and authority, and aided him all through his splendid but erratic career with whatever royal zeal and power could command.

Xavier landed at Goa in May, 1542. For three years he was ceaselessly active, passing from one part of Southern India to another; then, in 1545, he left for Malacca, and after visiting several other islands returned to India in January, 1548. Here he remained for fifteen months, busily occupied in the affairs of the college he had founded at Goa, visiting some of his former scenes of labor, and arranging for the prosecution of the mission, and then, in April, 1549, he sailed for Japan.

It is difficult to ascertain with any degree of precision the results of his "wild but splendid" career. Roman Catholic biographers and historians, having now Protestant eyes on them, are guarded in their statements, but in the past, when not so liable to criticism, gave almost as much rein to fancy as a Hindu panegyrist writing a Purana. By them Xavier is credited with all manner of gifts, natural, supernatural, and spiritual, and with an extraordinary amount of success, his converts being said to amount to