

practice were not dwelt upon; they wished to be Christians in their creed, but heathens in their lives. A military chief of the name of Combacundono having got to the head of affairs, issued an order that every missionary should within three weeks depart from the empire. The Jesuits having humbly solicited to know the motive of such unheard-of rigour, rescript was delivered to them, in which it was stated, 'that they terrified the people out of their old customs and modes of worship, and introduced the service of the devil in their stead; moreover they eat horses and cows, a proceeding altogether contrary to reason, these animals being exceedingly useful to the state.' The missionaries replied; 'that they had come from a distant region of the globe, with no possible motive but the good of the Japanese; that they had no means, even if they had the inclination, to do any thing which could justly give umbrage to the ruling power.' The eating of horse flesh they denied *in toto*; and even that of cows, unless in a very limited degree, when it appeared at the tables of the Portuguese merchants. They allege, that the real source of the enmity arose from the inclinations of the Emperor towards the fair sex, the most beautiful of whom his agents were diligently instructed to collect from every quarter of the empire.

"The Jesuits found, notwithstanding, that by remaining quiet, they could still maintain their place. Ill fortune, however, decreed that at this moment a detachment of Barefoot friars arrived from the Philippines. These new recruits, besides being quite ignorant of Japan, by no means possessed the prudence and mildness of the Jesuits. The latter strongly represented to them, that the only tenure, on which they could remain, or have any success in Japan, was by avoiding every public exhibition of themselves, and the ceremonies of their religion. The lofty mind of the the Barefoots, however, held in utter disdain any such compromise. They immediately began publicly preaching, and celebrating the Catholic rites, without any regard to the remonstrances made by the governor. A Portuguese ship being at the same crisis stranded on the coast, was found to contain a huge quantity of arms, a circumstance which so deeply excited the anger of the Emperor, that he began with ordering that every missionary should be instantly sent out of the country; then recollecting how vain every order of that effect had hitherto proved; he declared, that since he could not make them depart this kingdom, he would at least make them depart this life, and directed that the whole should be instantly put to death. Gradually cooling, however, he listened to intercession in their favour, and ordered only that six Barefoot friars, three Jesuits, and a few Japanese, should be crucified, and that twenty-four should have one ear cut off. All their seminaries and establishments were at the same time broken up; yet they still individually lurked; and the death of the Emperor, which soon after took place, enabled them again to lift up their heads. New persecutors, however soon arose, and during a space of forty years, Japan furnished continual additions to the list of Catholic martyrs. By an unremitting system of torture and death, the Portuguese and the religion which they taught were completely rooted out of Japan. Even now, in all the seaports,