

have come to my assistance: we were six; now we are twenty-one.

With the aid you transmitted to me I have been able to erect four new churches; I have repaired the old ones, and founded four establishments for the education of youth. Two of these establishments are directed by the Sisters of Jesus-Mary of Fourviere. It is scarcely two years since those ladies touched the Hindoo soil, and they have already a numerous boarding school, in which they receive the young girls of the first Irish and English families established in the country. This boarding school, which is in a prosperous way, allows me to hope that, with its own resources, it will support for the future an asylum which I have just founded to receive our little Indian and Irish orphan girls.

I should wish to be able to make you witness the good that those ladies have done in my mission; I should wish, above all, to make you hear the accents of the young pupils, when they desire to express their gratitude towards the pious members of the Propagation of the Faith; like me, you would be moved unto tears. Oh! if you saw how their features become animated, how their gestures are eloquent, when they say, in their ingenious simplicity, "Good Jesus! reward the charity of those gentlemen who love us so much! Most Holy Virgin, bless our mothers in Europe, who have so much love for us!"

The following extract from the same document sets in a horrible light the infamous treatment which all Catholic soldiers receive from our paternal Government:—

"I shall not conclude without again speaking of our Catholic Irish, who serve under the standard of Great Britain: they alone form two-thirds of the European Army in India. Faithful to their oath, they are always at the post to which duty calls them, sparing neither their blood nor their life, as exemplified by the 44th Regiment, which, before its departure from Agra, handed me nearly forty pounds for your association, and which was lately massacred in the terrible affair of Cabul.—*These brave soldiers see themselves, I do not say abandoned, but persecuted in their religion, and tortured in their consciences. They are obliged to send their children to a Protestant school, where they are taught error, and, by a violation of every natural and religious right, their orphans are taken possession of, and shut up in military asylums, to be reared in the Anglican sect. Oh! who will teach me to depict to you the anxiety of the poor Irish, when, on their bed of death, they cast a shuddering look at their children, who are going to be torn from them for ever by heresy, and whom they fear never to meet in heaven.*—

How many times, when I assisted at their last hour, have they not supplicated me, with tears in their eyes, to oppose this oppression! and, to calm their just alarms, I have had to assure them I would become their father. May God be praised! I have hitherto, gentlemen, been able to keep my word, and already twenty-nine of these innocent creatures have been saved from error, although the Government has always refused to allow me the pension of two rupees and a half, which it gives to the Protestant orphans. It is true that I have nothing upon earth; but I hope that Divine Providence will always enable me to find a bit of bread to share with them.

I can assure you that, if a crowd of fellow-laborers came to my assistance—if my resources were sufficient to pay the expenses of their voyage—if I could form numerous establishments for the education of the youth—if I could raise in the eyes of the faithful and of our separated brethren the dignity of our worship—yes, I am certain the mission of Hindoostan could be of immense advantage to the cause of religion. This land is not as sterile for the faith as hitherto believed.

Do not, however, suppose that the mission of which I have spoken is an isolated work: oh, no! it is connected with a vast and persevering plan, which must one day, with the assistance of God, change the spiritual destinies of this unhappy people. Already, with the consent of the Holy See, I am going to form a new Vicariate-Apostolic in Lower Hindoostan. It will be named the Vicariate of Patna. Already the Holy Father himself urges me to open the missions of Cashmere and Lahore, and to continue with perseverance that of Himalaya. Already I have found, since my arrival in Europe, a sufficient number of priests to send them to the principal churches. What is essential for them and for me is to reach the land of idolatry, where we shall always find a little bread to support us, and a roof to shelter us; and, having once landed on these distant shores, we shall indemnify you for your sacrifices by snatching from the demon his unhappy slaves, and by diffusing amongst them the blessings of Christianity, and the benefits of civilization.

We add to these details a statement of the addition to his forces with which Dr. Borghi will return to India:—

"His Lordship, Dr. Borghi, Bishop of Bethsaida, Vicar-Apostolic of Thibet and Hindoostan, announces to us that he is taking with him the missionaries and religious of the following names: 1st. The Rev. Father Bonaventure, of Florence, Capuchin; the Rev. Julius Cæsar Calderari, a noble Milanese, and secular Priest; the Rev. Joseph Bertrand, Priest of the diocese of Gap.