

was evil and unchristian, but under the extremest pressure. Jesuitism remained true to its principles of concealment, evasion, and double meaning, if an end is to be gained, and submitted, but did not recant.

And the evil wrought remained. As a Roman Catholic historian writes : " In order to take away every pretext for tergiversation, Benedict XIV issued the bull *Omnium Sollicitudum*, in which he recited all that had passed on the matter, . . . and left nothing undone in order to put an end to the disputes in regard to the Malabar rites. Nevertheless, a leaven of discord always remained between the Jesuits and the other missionaries, and the latter reproached the former for not observing the bull honestly."*

What have been the issues of this most shameful and systematic deception, this doing of evil that good might come? Ignominious failure, since Christianity has been slandered, the success of missions been hindered, and native Christian life and character permanently degraded and weakened! The natives discovered that the Roman Suniassis were, after all, only Feringhees, Europeans in disguise. This enraged and disgusted them. It stopped conversions. It aspersed the Christian name, and men of Western race. It lowered the standard of native Christian life and character almost ineradicably. About twenty-five years after the bull of Benedict was issued, Fra Bartolomeo describes the Madura Christians as " living in the lowest state of degradation and ignorance." The Abbé Dubois, who was a Roman Catholic missionary in Southern India from 1790 to 1815, gives in his remarkable volume of " Letters on the State of Christianity in India," a most humiliating account of the weakness, ignorance, and superstition of the Roman Catholic converts. Here is one of his statements : " During a period of twenty-five years that I have familiarly conversed with them, lived among them as their religious teacher and spiritual guide, I would hardly dare to affirm that I have anywhere met a sincere and undisguised Christian."

Nor has the evil leaven yet been purged away. In the *Harvest Field* of this year, p. 329, an experienced and intelligent Protestant missionary in Southern India, the Rev. S. V. Thomas, M.A., thus writes : " Their converts are now to be found in certain districts of South India, in Madura, Trichinopoly, Tangore, and other places. These Catholic Christians, as they call themselves, are living monuments to attest the Jesuit policy louder than Pascal's letters or European proverbs. They wear marks on their foreheads as their heathen neighbors do, go to Hindu temples on festival occasions, and bow down before the images of pagan gods, while perhaps they inwardly repeat Paters and Aves. Part of their marriage ceremony is performed in the Christian chapel, and the couple is blessed by the Catholic priest. When this is done they go home, kindle a fire and walk round it, tie the wedding knot in the presence of Agni, and call upon that fire god to witness the solemn contract. Their church is divided into compart-

* " A Continuation of the Church History of Berault Bercastel," by Comte de Robiano, tome I., p. 197.