

the original acts of the Congregation of the Holy Office. "They will show you," he writes, "that the report you have heard in your countries announcing the suspension or annulling of the decrees of the Cardinal de Tournon, Visitor Apostolic of happy memory, is false and without the slightest foundation."*

The fathers, though hard pressed, were not yet vanquished. They reported that the Pope had been misinformed as to facts on which his decision had been founded, and prepared a document which was signed by many of their converts and three eminent Hindu Pundits affirming that the rites in question were all mere civil observances. But the contrary was affirmed by other Brahmans, yet with little effect; for the wily Brotherhood held on their way. Again Clement XI., in 1714 and 1719; Benedict XIII., in 1727, issued briefs, insisting on obedience to the decree of De Tournon, to which no attention was paid. But a yet more extraordinary instance of disregard of moral obligation followed. Pope Clement XII., in 1739, issued a brief insisting on instant and absolute submission. Every Jesuit bishop and missionary in India was required to subscribe on oath to a most binding document, part only of which can here be given: "I, —, of the Society of Jesus, . . . obeying the precept of . . . Pope Clement XII., . . . issued in 1739, enjoining all the missionaries . . . to take an oath that they will faithfully observe the Apostolic determination concerning the Malabar rites, . . . promise that I will obey fully and faithfully, that I will observe it exactly, entirely, absolutely and inviolably, and that I will fulfil it without any tergiversation; moreover, that I will instruct the Christians committed to my charge according to the tenor of the said brief, . . . and especially the catechumens, before they shall be baptized, and unless they promise that they will observe the said brief . . . that I will not baptize them; further, that I shall take care, with all possible zeal and diligence, that the ceremonies of the heathen be abolished. . . . Thus, touching the Holy Gospels, I promise now and swear. . . . Signed with mine own hand, —."†

This evidently was designed to be a net from whose meshes no fish should escape; nevertheless, though it was signed by every Jesuit father, the Madura Brotherhood went on their way, systematically doing what, according to the common understanding of mankind, they had taken an oath not to do!

The fathers yet continuing their methods, another Pope, Benedict XIV., issued a brief, so precise that it was difficult for even Jesuit ingenuity to evade it, and to make it public, commanded that it should be read every Sunday in their congregation, and that all converts should be made to promise obedience to its requisitions. Thus for a century and a half was this deliberate and systematic lying and imposture persevered in, and even then was but reluctantly, sullenly, and partially abandoned, not because it

* "Memoires Historiques," par le R. P. Norbert, Lucra edition, tome I., pp. 310-61.

† The original of the brief at full length is found in "Memoires Historiques," tome II., p. 465.