

with the purity and simplicity of their worship, they were offended. "These Churches," said the Portuguese, "belong to the Pope," "Who is the Pope?" said the natives, "we never heard of him." The European priests were yet more alarmed, when they found that these Hindoo Christians maintained the order and discipline of a regular Church under Episcopal Jurisdiction : and that, for 1300 years past, they had enjoyed a succession of Bishops appointed by the Patriarch of Antioch. "We," said they, "are of the true faith, whatever you from the West may be ; for we come from the place where the followers of Christ were first called Christians."

"When the power of the Portuguese became sufficient for their purpose, they invaded these tranquil Churches, seized some of the Clergy, and devoted them to the death of heretics. Then the inhabitants heard for the first time that there was a place called the *Inquisition* ; and that its fires had been lately lighted at Goa, near their own land. But the Portuguese, finding that the people were resolute in defending their ancient faith, began to try more conciliatory measures. They seized the Syrian Bishop, Mar Joseph, and sent him prisoner to Lisbon, and then convened a Synod at one of the Syrian Churches called Diamper, near Cochin, at which the Romish Arch-bishop Menezes presided. At this compulsory Synod, 150 of the Syrian Clergy appeared. They were accused of the following practices and opinions, "That they had married wives ; that they owned but two Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper ; that they neither invoked Saints, nor worshipped images, nor believed in Purgatory : and that they had no other orders or names of dignity in the Church, than Bishop, Priest, and Deacon." These tenets they were called on to abjure, or to suffer suspension from all Church benefices. It was also decreed that all the Syrian books on Ecclesiastical subjects that could be found, should be burned ; "in order," said the Inquisitors, "that no pretended apostolical monuments may remain."

"The Churches on the sea coast were thus compelled to acknowledge the supremacy of the Pope : but they refused to pray in Latin, and insisted on retaining their own language and Liturgy. This point, they said, they would only give up with their lives. The Pope compromised with them : Menezes purged their Liturgy of its errors : and they retain their Syriac Language, and have a Syriac Col-