

unslacked lime, and to the humidity of an underground burial place : that not even the *viscera* have been taken out, but are still discernible, as the official enquiry made by the physicians assures us, and that according to the laws of nature, and their invariable action, in every other instance of a dead body, the body of the Saint could not be preserved incorrupt, as it is, I wish to know who will gainsay that here is a miracle of the first order attributed to no other power than the divine, which alone can inhibit the laws of nature, and suspend their action for some higher purpose. The purpose of God's working this undeniable miracle is to prove the sanctity of His servant and the veracity of his teaching. It is impossible for God to confirm by evident miracles a false doctrine. The religion taught by St. Francis-Xavier is therefore a divine religion. It is the only one that ever has been confirmed by the visible finger of God, by miracles which neither nature, nor angels, nor devils are able to perform by their own innate powers. The poor Goanese have to thank the Portuguese nation for very little besides the precious gift of that holy faith, which, however, suffices to fill their hearts even now with grateful attachment to a Government from which they receive and accept nothing, except now and then a good shepherd and the permission to see the body of their apostle and patron. Possessing in their Catholic religion an infallible guide to heaven, they can afford to ignore the scoffings of those who, in their ignorance and wilful prejudice, are unable to discern the supernatural from the natural, and call our veneration of god's saints superstition. We left Goa on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, filled with great and ineffaceable consolation, ready to give witness to every one of the marvellous honor bestowed by the Almighty on our brother, the great Apostle of the East,