

was placed in a coffin and covered over with unslacked lime, in order to accelerate its decomposition, and he was buried without solemnity on the following sunday.

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*Proposed exhumation of the relics of St. Francis-Xavier.*

An East Indian (protestant) secular paper said a few months ago : « An important ceremony in connection with the Roman Catholic Church in India is shortly to be celebrated at Goa. It has been determined by his Majesty the King of Portugal and his Holiness the Pope, that the time is opportune for the exhumation of the body of St. Francis Xavier, the Apostle of India, which has remained sealed in its gorgeous mausoleum erected by the piety of Donna Maria Secunda, late Queen of Portugal, in the cathedral of ancient Goa since 1859.

« The tragic death of this remarkable and good man, which occurred some three hundred years ago at Macao, whilst engaged in propagating the great doctrines of Christianity, is matter of history—and how his body was brought by sorrowing and loving friends to Goa and there interred—and how he was canonized by the Roman Conclave and his right hand sent to Rome—since which time the body has been periodically exhumed and presented as one of the miracles of the Church to the thousand of devotees who, on those occasions, congregate from all parts of India to take part in the ceremony. At each of these exhumations the remains have been subjected to the most rigid inspection by the best medical faculty procurable, in the presence of all the great dignitaries of the Church and realm, including the Governor-General in person, that no deception may be used, and that every minute circumstance in the appearance of the body may be observed and clearly and distinctly noted down in the report, which report,