

in this country." I took a place in one of the steamboats of the Austrian Lloyd's company, on the 12th of May, and entered the port of Patras on the forenoon of the 14th.

MISSION OF PATRAS.

"Patras is an ancient city of Achaia, where the Apostle St. Andrew suffered martyrdom.— Tradition still points out the trunk of an olive tree, which, it is said, furnished the wood for the cross on which he died. The church, which is dedicated to the Apostle, is at some distance from the city. The Greeks had formerly a monastery here, together with a church, which were both destroyed at the late revolution. A new church is now being constructed on the site of the old one; though larger, it will consist only of a single nave. A piece of marble is shown here, having the figure of St. Andrew, on which, it is said, his body was laid before it was transferred to Constantinople. The old city is situated on a hill which faces the sea and still possesses the church of St. Mark, built by the Venetians. When Patras fell into the hands of the Turks, almost all the houses round the church were demolished, and a mosque opened, which has since been converted by the Greeks into a place of Christian worship.— When Count Capo d'Istria was President of Greece, he established two principal ports for commerce; one for that of the east, the other for that of the west—he marked out Patras as the most proper place for the latter. He therefore recommended the inhabitants, who were for the most part foreigners, to remove to the shore, and construct their houses according to a plan which was laid down for them. The new city, the population of which has been considerably increased, contains now four or five spacious and regular streets, intersected by many others. Four of the great powers have appointed consuls there but trade has as yet made but inconsiderable progress; it is melancholy to see houses left unfinished for want of means or encouragement to complete them.

"On my arrival at Patras, I went to the Austrian consul, where the Missionary of the place, Dr. Francis Cuculla, a native of Syria, came to

visit me. After the first civilities were exchanged, I followed him to the church, which I expected to find no better than a small wooden temporary edifice, constructed when the Morea was occupied by the French troops, but was sadly disappointed, not less by the smallness of the building, than by the total state of ruin which I found it, presenting more the appearance of a stable, than of a house consecrated to the service of God. A small room over the chapel served as a dwelling for the Missionary, which, by its isolated position, was exposed to every blast, and but badly protected by the planks of which it was formed. Convinced of the urgent necessity of constructing a new church, I requested the Missionary to get a plan drawn out by the public engineer, who is a Catholic, of a chapel, capable of containing a hundred persons, with a small house for the clergyman, consisting of two rooms, with a kitchen, and another room, which might serve as a refectory and school-room. The following day was spent in paying and receiving visits; and the English and Russian consuls came to see me, and by the attentions of which I was the object, showed the high consideration in which the representative of the Holy See is held, even by those who are not in communion with it.

"The children had been previously prepared for Confirmation by the Missionary, and the following Sunday was fixed for the ceremony. In the interim I made arrangements for the construction of the new church, and appointed a committee, composed of the principal Catholics, to superintend the work and raise funds for its completion. The cost was estimated at £360 at least; the inhabitants could scarcely furnish £70 of that sum; and as the congregation of the Propaganda was not able to supply the remainder, I thought I could not better employ the succours granted me by you, and therefore subscribed £50 as an encouragement. When Sunday came, the church was filled to excess by Greeks, whom curiosity attracted to the ceremony. The governor sent guards to preserve order, and though the crowd was so great, that many persons climbed up on the rafters, no accident occurred to dis-