

drew him from his eagerness to obtain worldly honors by repeating the earnest words of Christ : « What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul ? » These words of our Saviour, coming from the lips of a St. Ignatius, so deeply pierced the heart of Xavier, and made so indelible an impression, that he became entirely converted. Then, and forever after, Francis gave himself unreservedly to gain souls to God. After a brief apostolate amongst his countrymen in Rome, he was sent by St. Ignatius to the Indies, where for twelve years, like another St. Paul, he was to wear himself out, bearing the Gospel to Hindostan, to Malacca, and to Japan. Though vested with the dignity of Nuncio Apostolic and Superior over his religious brethren, he only used his authority to take for himself the largest share of the toils and dangers of the work. Thwarted by the jealousy, covetousness, and carelessness of those who should have helped and encouraged him, neither their opposition nor the difficulties of every sort which he encountered could make him slacken his labors for souls. He was ever preaching, baptizing, hearing confessions, discussing with the learned, instructing the ignorant ; and yet all this was done with the greatest pains, as the elaborate instructions and the long letters which he has left behind prove. The vast kingdom of China appealed to his charity, and he was resolved to risk his life to force an entry, when God took him to Himself, and he died, like Moses, in sight of the land of promise. He died of fever on the island of Sancian, at the age of 46 years, having been in the Indies less than twelve years. During that short space of time, he had preached the Gospel to over a hundred islands or kingdoms, worked innumerable miracles, raised eight dead persons to life, and converted to Jesus Christ more than a hundred thousand souls. His body