

three years in discharging this ministry; celebrating at times the holy mysteries in a cabin or in a stable; for there is not a dozen of churches for all these congregations. Alas! that I should have reason to water with my tears the way which I passed, since I met only the dead and dying, and unburied corpses that obstructed the ways and infected the neighbourhood of the villages and cities. Famine, the cholera, and all the calamities that follow in their train, had ravaged, dispersed, and reduced, by more than one-half, my unhappy flock. After a three years sojourn in this afflicted country, where I baptised some hundreds of pagan children, expiring upon the corpses of their mothers, I was recalled to take the place of one of my young colleagues, who was cut down in the flower of his age, after eighteen months' labour.

"I was thereupon sent to the west, to a hundred and thirty leagues west of Pondicherry, into the kingdom of Mysore. But I did not go direct to my destination: I was obliged to make a round of more than thirty leagues through forests and over frightful mountains, in order to carry the succours of religion to some congregations of poor Christians, who live in these woods in the midst of idolatry. A circuit of four months' duration brought me to Seringapatam, where I commenced to labour; but what a task! A new people, and consequently a new language to be learned. God aided me in my weakness, and this third language has come, together with English, to locate itself in the obscure retreats of my memory. Such is the field where, in union with a colleague, in whom God gave me the kindest friend, I labour since 1837.—Both of us bore with joy the burden of the day, during which we scattered the

seed of Faith in these vast asserts; but God deprived me two years after, of this consolation: other necessities called this companion to our labours, and I, feeble and alone, remained charged with all the cares of the mission, of which I shall give you an idea.—You are a Parish Priest, and so am I; but my parish contains 22 churches, scattered over a surface of seventy-three leagues in length, by twelve in breadth, separated from each other by distances that occupy two or three days in travelling them. The Mysore is one of the most extensive and richest kingdoms of the peninsula. Protected on the east by a long chain of mountains, it is also crossed in the interior by another chain, covered with forests, which are the retreat of tigers. To the west are the *Gauts*, lofty mountains, which divide India from north to south, and serve as a shelter for elephants. In the neighbourhood of three or four of my churches, they are met in troops of from twenty to forty: they come at night to devour the harvest of the farmer, who mounts into the trees, and with the help of the sling, or lighted wisps of straw, drives away the royal robber—the elephant is here called king or god. On the south there is also a barrier of mountains; so that this kingdom is only open at the north to the incursions of the enemy. It is then through the midst of these woods, in defiles and across numerous rivers, among the retreats of the tiger and elephant, that I am obliged to visit my poor flock, and to go to break the bread of the word and to feed their souls, after a spiritual hunger of a year, and sometimes of eighteen months' duration; for notwithstanding my uninterrupted travelling, it happens that I cannot return to the same place in the course of the