

adults, and more than 250,000 pagan children in danger of death. Some mandarins show themselves favourable to the Christians; in fine, the public opinion towards the religion of the Master of Heaven (so the Catholic religion is named in China,) is such, that if it were not for terror of the punishment to which the faithful are exposed, the Chinese would embrace it in multitudes. Hence the missionaries cease not urging us to offer up fervent prayers for the conversion of the emperor, as the immediate effect of that conversion would be, an accession to the Church of more than two hundred millions of souls.

In Cochinchina, and in Tong-king, they cite a thousand examples of the vengeance of Heaven upon the persecutors of the faith. We shall say nothing of the state of religion in those kingdoms; the details of the persecutions which desolate them are now known to every one. Blood flows there—but the blood of martyrs has always been the precious seed of new Christians.

If from the east we transport ourselves into another hemisphere, there again are found grounds of consoling hope for the holy church of Jesus Christ. A few years ago, the European, who was drawn to them by the appetite for gain, found in these new regions where he came to settle, neither priests, nor altars, nor religious assistance. Whole years elapsed, leaving him in this fatal isolation; his children grew up in a deadly indifference, and soon abandoned a religion which they could say, alas! they had never well known. At the present day, thanks, it must be acknowledged, to the Institution for the Propagation of the Faith, bishops succeed each other and multi-

ply, churches rise on all sides, charitable priests proceed to the most remote places, to seek the German and the Irish emigrants, and make them bless Him, who inspires his ministers with such an ardent zeal for the salvation of souls. Their families learn to know the God of their fathers: thus religion begins to gain strength in the possession of its inheritance, which it was in danger of losing, and advances amidst the obstacles of all kinds, which hatred and jealousy occasion; ceaselessly rallying its children, and even gathering to itself all the elevated minds and generous souls among the adepts and ministers of the surrounding sects. In fine, at the extremities of the earth, from countries hardly known, the innumerable islands of New Holland behold the light of the divine torch of faith. Three bishops provide for this people; more than twenty missionaries already plough up these uncultivated lands; others hasten on their footsteps ready to second or replace them, if fatigue or martyrdom should interrupt the course of their apostolic works. There, from the first moment, it seems as if the harvest were already ripe, and as if nothing were wanted but labourers to gather it. Such is the future destiny of the holy religion of the Saviour; for its empire is not confined to one people, nor to one region of the universe; it is to it, and to it alone, that the command has been addressed, to ask for children from the East and from the West, and the East and the West have hastened to supply them. All the earth is promised to it; the universality of time and place is its inheritance: such is the assurance of its divine Author. It is to accomplish his promise that he multiplies wonders as they are required. He alone can work his