

dung ashes, and strict ritual, their converts, really few in number, ill-instructed and beguiled into Christianity, rather than intellectually accepting it on conviction, retained with but slight modification the superstitious manners, customs, and beliefs of Hinduism, a residuum or virus of heathenism which has kept the Roman Catholic community of Southern India ignorant, poor, weak, uninfluential, up to the present time.

The boasted unity of the Church of Rome has always been more of an assumption than a reality, and these proceedings were too scandalous, especially in the eyes of the Dominicans and Capuchins, to be allowed unchallenged. An appeal was made to Rome, and Pope Paul V. appointed the Archbishop of Goa to investigate the charges. His report confirmed the charges, and condemned the policy of Nobilis and his party. To this the Jesuits replied with their usual speciousness that the rites and practices now challenged and condemned were merely civil observances, having in them nothing of a religious nature ; that they were neither opposed to the faith nor morality, but were absolutely essential to the spread of Christianity in India, and nothing more than prudent and innocent concessions to native distrust, superstition, and ignorance ! On these conflicting reports a Papal declaration was issued, in 1623, condemning some of the practices, and counselling great care on all points in dispute, and to avoid scandal and exposure, it was sent privately to the Jesuits only. The worthy fathers received it in silence and went on doing as before, so that it was not until fifty-seven years afterward that the Capuchins so much as knew of the existence of such a document !

The Jesuits about this time were at the zenith of their power, and so for a long time were able to defy their enemies. And so, like other mortals, they abused their power and acted with more audacity and less caution, so that public attention was again called to their proceedings. So numerous and flagrant were their alleged compromises with Hindu rites and practices, that Pope Clement XI. was moved, in 1702, to send out C. T. Maillard de Tournon, a man of high rank and great repute, as Legate, with power to investigate the charges and report. The decree he issued condemned, among other things, the marriage of children six or seven years of age ; the hanging of the talz about their necks—the usual Hindu symbol used in such cases ; the abolition of certain nuptial ceremonies—" for they overflow with the pollutions of heathenism ;" the disuse of the twig of a certain tree which was emblematic of the Hindu Triad—Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva ; of the circlelets used for averting misfortune ; the use of seven vessels filled with growing rice, emblematic of the seven planetary gods. The Christians were condemned for taking a part in idolatrous festivals ; bathing at set times, and in the manner of the heathen ; passing themselves off as Suniassis ; using the ashes of cow's dung, with marks on the forehead, chest, and elsewhere, practices common among the " most superstitious Hindus ;" and among other things condemned was a feminine cere-