

Dutch in these parts of the world are too loose *An. 1688*
Livers to gain reputation to their Religion, so are
the other *Europeans*, I mean the Missionary Priests,
especially the *Portuguese*, but very blind Teachers. But
indeed as the *Romanists* are the only men who com-
pals Sea and Land to gain profelytes, so they may
seem to have one advantage over *Protestant* Ministers
in these Idolatrous Countries, that they pre-
sent them with such a kind of Objects, for Reli-
gious Worship, as they have been used to already:
for the exchange is not great from *Pagan* Idols to
Images of Saints, which may serve altogether as
well for the poor Souls they convert, who are
guided only by sense. But then even here also,
these people having been bred up in the belief of
the goodness of their own Gods or Heroes, they
will more hardy be brought over to change their
own Idols for new ones, without some better Ar-
guments to prove these to be more valuable, than
the Missionaries ordinarily are able to afford them:
and if I may freely speak my opinion, I am apt to
think, that the gross Idolatry of the Papists is ra-
ther a prejudice, than advantage to their Missions:
and that their first care should be to bring the
people to be virtuous and considerate, and their
next, to give them a plain History and Scheme of
the fundamental Truths of Christianity, and shew
them how agreeable they are to natural light, and
how worthy of God.

But to return to the *French* Priest; he at length
asked me, if any of our *English* Ships brought Pow-
der to sell? I told him I thought not. Then he
asked me if I knew the composition of Powder?
I answer'd that I had receipts how to make either
Cannon or fine Powder, and told him the manner
of the Composition. Said he, I have the same
receipts from *France*, and have tryed to make
Powder but could not, and therefore I think the
H fault