

had certainly foundered ! Sadly was the vessel's head set once more upon her course; and every one on board deplored the fate of the fifteen men who had perished. Deeply impressed with the danger from which they had been miraculously rescued, all keenly shared the grief of the captain for the loss of his nephew and of the poor Indians whose friends and relatives had also perished in the ill fated boat. Francis Xavier was also deeply grieved for the fate of two unfortunate mussulmans who formed part of the crew of the lost boat, and whom he had in vain tried to convert. He attributed his failure to his own unworthiness, and begged of God, most earnestly, to save the two poor creatures by a miracle, rather than permit the eternal loss of two souls he so ardently desired to snatch from the jaws of hell. He then approached the captain and said :

—"My dear Edward, be of good cheer: the boat will return ; the daughter will come back to her mother."

—"But, it is all over, good Father," said the captain, "I can see no chance of escape, but by a miracle, for the unfortunate people in the boat."

Nevertheless, Father Francis had said : "She will return." These words gave him hope, and he sent a man aloft to scan the horizon again There was nothing to be seen, not a speck on the waste of waters ! Meantime the saintly Father had retired ; but after two hours of prayer he again appeared on the deck, and, addressing the captain said :

"Well, dear friend, is there any sign of the boat?"

—"No, Father."

—"Send a man aloft to the tops, captain, the boat will come back !"

—"Yes," impatiently exclaimed Pedro Veilho, "a boat will perhaps come some day or other, but not the boat we have lost!"

—"Senhor Pedro," answered our saint, "you doubt the goodness and power of God ! This is a want of faith. Nothing is difficult for Him, nothing impossible ! I have placed the boat under the care of the Blessed Virgin ; I have vowed to say three masses at Notre Dame du Mont if she returns with her fifteen souls, and I am so confident of the mercy of God, that I hope to see them come back