

what is too true, it is modern pretended philosophy that has destroyed them. Must we call to witness the example of Europe itself? for we are one of the living proofs of the benefits of Catholic Missions: was it not they that enlightened our ancestors, snatched them from barbarism, abolished slavery amongst them, and established that common law which has reconstituted society, and placed it on its true foundation?

In fine, it is not alone to the infidel nations which they enlighten that the Catholic Missions are useful; they are also useful to commerce, to industry, to the sciences, and even to the literature of Europe.

To Commerce.—It was the Missionaries who opened the coast towns of the Levant to the productions of our industry. It was they again who, by the ascendancy which their knowledge and their virtues have often gained for them over the minds of infidel princes, have protected European merchants and navigators, in the maritime cities of India and China.

To industry.—It was one of these admirable labourers who first gave us information respecting Indian cloths and dyes. The correspondence known under the title of "*Lettres edifiantes*" supplied a multitude of data useful in the manufacture of a great number of productions.

To sciences.—Archeology owes

to them precious discoveries; natural history, interesting descriptions of places and objects imperfectly known before. As skilful mathematicians, they have contributed to the progress of astronomy and of physics.* As learned philologists, they have revealed to Europe the genius of the oriental languages; they have inspired a taste for that literature from which science every day draws such riches, and of which it makes such happy use in the furtherance of all truths. At the present day, the Missionaries whom the pious congregation of St. Lazarus sends to China, prepare themselves by a course of deep study for their perilous Mission.

To Letters.—"It is they," says M. de Chateaubriand, "who have written with such elegance the annals of many colonies. What an excellent history is that of the Antilles, by the Pere du Tertre! The works of these pious men are full of science in all its departments: learned dissertations, pictures of manners, plans of amelioration for our establishments, useful objects, moral reflections, interesting adventures, every thing is found in them; the history of an acacia, or of a Chinese willow, is bound up with that of an emperor obliged to stab himself, and the narrative of the conversion of a Paria comprises a treatise on the mathematical science of

* At present the most exact charts used by the navigators who cross the seas of China, are those which were drawn up by the Jesuit Missionaries.