

ina, there is a space of 5,000 or 10,000 leagues to pass; and to go to America, there are nearly 2,000.— At their arrival the missionaries have further to make long journeys to visit the poor Christian, scattered here and there through a vast extent of country, and to whom very often temporal succour must be afforded, in administering the sacraments. “Many Christians will certainly die of hunger this year,” says a Chinese missionary, “unless we can come to their assistance:” these poor people in times of scarcity reckon the number of days that they have to live by the quantity of food that remains to them. After calculating the time, they come from a great distance to receive extreme unction; they then calmly wait for the moment of their death; affecting a spectacle, which the missionaries are obliged to support, when, after being reduced themselves to extreme distress, they have nothing left to support their neophytes! Is not this simple statement of facts calculated to move us? and if it does not move us, shall we do nothing to finish them? Alas! at the moment of consenting to some useless expense, if we were to reflect that this money, which we hesitate to lavish on trifles, we could render Christians in the hands of the Turks, engage idolaters to suffer their children in danger of death to be baptised, deliver Chinese families from the cruel treatment of the mandarins, establish catechists in places where they would make

known our holy religion, cause spiritual assistance to be borne to the destitute; if we were to reflect on all the good which would result from the sacrifice of our fancies, from employing in good works what these fancies would cost us, we would doubtless often make that sacrifice, and receive the sweetest of all rewards in the satisfaction felt in this world, and in the treasures amassed in heaven. Pilgrims in a foreign country, we shall soon quit it, bearing with us only our works. Then how shall we congratulate ourselves on our light sacrifices; and how consoling will it be to think of the souls saved by our charity, who will have prepared for us a place in that heaven to which we shall have contributed to introduce them! If our fortune should not permit great sacrifices, let us at least do what we can: the Institution for the Propagation of the Faith asks from us only a very little. It has been proportioned to the humble means of the most moderate conditions, but, at the same time, undoubtedly reckoning upon a unanimous co-operation, which alone can render the results commensurate with the greatness of the end. Catholics of both sexes and of all ages are called to participate in it: all can bear with facility an efficacious assistance. Let us all then become members of the Institution, and our united prayers will change the stones into children of Abraham, and our half-penny a week will pay the ransom of the idolatrous world.