

building, and stands at a small distance from the city, which leads to a spacious street, terminated by a beautiful church. Goa contains a great number of handsome churches, convents, and cloisters, with a stately large hospital, all well endowed, and kept in good repair. The market-place takes up an acre of ground; and in the shops about it may be had the produce of Europe, Bengal, China, and other countries of less note. Every church has a set of bells, some of which are continually ringing. Their religion is Roman Catholic, and they have a most horrid cruel inquisition. There are a great number of Indian converts, who generally retain some of their old customs, particularly, they cannot be brought to eat beef. However, there are many Gentoos in the city, who are tolerated, because they are more industrious than the Christians, and better artists. The clergy are very numerous, and illiterate; but the churches are finely embellished, and have numbers of images. Their houses, which are of stone, are spacious and handsome, and make a fine shew; but they are poorly finished within. The inhabitants are contented with greens, roots, and fruit, which, with a little bread, rice, and fish, is their only diet, though they have hogs and fowls in plenty. They are much addicted to women, and are generally weak, lean, and feeble. Captain Hamilton, when he was in this island, stood on a hill near the city, and counted above 80 churches, convents, and monasteries, and he was told, that there were about 30,000 priests and monks. The body of St. Francis Xavier is buried in St. Paul's Church, and, as they pretend, performs a great many miracles. None of the churches, except one, have glass windows, for they make use of oyster-shells instead of glass. The town itself has few manufactures, or productions, their best trade being in arrack, which they distil from toddy, the sap of the cocoa-nut tree. The river's mouth is defended by several forts and batteries, well planted on both sides with large cannon; and there are several other forts in different places. This settlement is 250 miles N. by W. of Cochin.