

that Friar having been a Passenger in Captain *An. 1688*  
*Weldon's* Ship, from one of the *Nicobar* Islands to  
*Fort St. George*, I askt the Captain's opinion of that  
relation, since my writing that Book, and he gave  
me a quite contrary account of the people of *Ni-*  
*cobar* ; that they were a very perverse, false,  
thievish people, and did not deserve the good  
character the Friar gave of them.

But to proceed with the discourse I had with  
the *French* Priest at *Hean*. He told me, that in  
*Siam* the Gospel was in a very fair way to receive  
incouragement by the means of a *French* Bishop  
there, and several Ecclesiasticks he had with him  
there to assist him : that the great Minister of  
State, *Constant Falcon*, had embraced the Ro-  
mish Faith ; and that the King was very much  
inclined to it, the Courtiers also seeming well  
enough pleased with it. Insomach that 'twas  
hop'd, that in a short time the whole Nation  
would be converted : and that tho the Country  
people in general were against it, yet by the ex-  
ample of the King and his Court, the rest might  
come over by degrees : especially because the  
Priests had free Toleration to use their endeavours.  
As for *Tonquin*, he told me that the people in ge-  
neral were inclined to embrace the *Christian* Faith,  
but that the Government was wholly averse to it :  
that the Missionaries who lived here did not open-  
ly profess to be Teachers of their doctrine, but  
that they lived here under the notion of Mer-  
chants, and not as Clergy-men ; that this was a  
great obstacle to Christianity, yet nevertheless  
they found ways to draw the people from their  
Ignorance : that at present they had about 14000  
Converts, and more coming in daily. He told  
me, that here were two Bishops, I think both  
*French* men ; one of them was entitled the Bishop  
of *Ascalon*, the other of *Auran* ; and that here were  
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