

Van Dieman's Land, and the other lesser islands. In turning towards another immense continent to the south we can hardly feel but that we are approaching a land of malediction. The population of Africa is computed at 70,000,000, and of these 69,812,000 are still aliens to the Church of Christ.

God forbid that I should insinuate that the Cross is retrograding every where—nay, that it is not advancing, though by slight, slowly, with difficulty, and at the most bitter cost of every thing that is dearest to flesh and blood. Dispersed over the entire surface of the globe, 4000 priests, under the leadership of one hundred and fifty bishops, are beheld in every region and diversity of climate, enduring every extremity of hardship and danger. "In journeys often; in perils of rivers, in perils of robbers, in perils from their fellow-Christians, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the cities, in perils of the wilderness, in perils of the sea, in perils from false brethren, in labour, in anguish in frequent vigils, in hunger and thirst, in many fastings, in cold and nakedness"—still emulating their sainted predecessors in the trying but blessed service of the Crucified. Thus even in this land of Africa, upon which the curse of the Patriarch seems to have weighed so heavily for 4000 years, we find one of our own countrymen the Right Rev. Dr. Griffith, with his feeble, but devoted little band sustaining the cause of Christ upon this most distant frontier. Another of our countrymen, the Right Reverend Doctor Barron, with a devoted company of twelve priests, is on his way to take possession of those pestilential regions that extend along the western coast, there to suffer privations, to encounter difficulties and annoyances to which nothing could reconcile our nature but the consolation of sharing in the sufferings of our Redeemer and the certainty of enjoying him in Paradise. On the opposite coasts some promise is held out by the populations of Abyssinia and Egypt of again returning to the unity of faith. Even in Tunis Christ numbers 5000 souls, and along the coasts of the Mediterranean, the land of Cyprian and Augustine, is again visited by the blessings of which it was so long deprived. The most benign and heavenly institutions of the gospel are beginning to take root upon a soil abandoned to the fanaticism of the Koran for as many ages. Eight churches and seven chapels, a preparatory ecclesiastical college, an orphan asylum for each sex, three boys' schools, an infant asylum, a charity board, an hospital for the natives have been already established. Sisters of Charity, these heroines of religion, not only visit the houses of the Moors and Mahomedans in their illness, but even penetrate into the camps

of the Bedouins, to carry with the succours of medicine the balm of the divine word. But to retrace our steps. How calculated to fill the Christian heart with joy and wonder even to overflowing are the triumphs of religion that are daily taking place in the islands of the Pacific. In the Sandwich Islands, from which the Catholic missionaries were so recently expelled by persecuting bigotry, they number already no less than 6000 converts. The last number of the annals gives details of the proficiency made by these Neophytes not only in the Christian doctrine, but in secular education that fills us with delight and surprise. In Wallis, the most savage of the Marquesas Islands, the shores of which were dreaded even by the most daring mariners, and where the only variation of life consisted in passing from the horrors of savage warfare to the devouring of the captives by the conquerors, the entire population has not only been suddenly converted, but apparently transformed by the sacrament of regeneration into other beings. They had recently murdered in the most cruel manner one of the missionaries—a Father Chanal—who had long laboured and supplicated, apparently in vain, for their conversion; and scarcely has the martyr's blood been shed when the whole island becomes horror-struck at the crime, and by an impulse, evidently descending from heaven, embrace the faith. The last number of the Annals gives the most delightful particulars; describes them as vieing with each other in fervour to approach the sacraments, and atone, by every Christian virtue, for their past crimes and atrocities. Similar wonders have long since taken place in many of the other islands which now arise amidst the desert of the ocean as so many smiling oases upon which religion delights to rest. A new diocese has just been founded in Van Dieman's Land to which one of our countrymen, the Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, has been appointed, and Sydney has been raised to the dignity of an archiepiscopal see with two suffragans, in order to meet the calls of a rapidly increasing population of 50,000 Catholics. In the Philippine islands are no less than 3,000,000 already advanced in civilization, and distributed through 509 parishes in the archdiocese of Manilla and its suffragan sees; so that the entire of Oceania, including the Portuguese islands of Timor, Flores, and Sabao, contains little less than three millions and a half of Catholics.

We now cross the boundaries of those regions into which the missionary cannot penetrate but at the risk of life.

In the vicariate apostolic of Corea Christ numbers 7,000 faithful to his cross in spite of persecution: in the vicariate apostolic of Su-