

THE JOURNEY OF BENEDICT GOËS TO CATHAY;

FROM CHAPTERS XI, XII, AND XIII OF THE WORK ENTITLED
“DE CHRISTIANA EXPEDITIONE APUD SINAS, SUSCEPTA AB
SOCIETATE JESU, EX P. MATTHÆI RICII COMMEN-
TARIIS, ETC., AUCTORE P. NICOLAO TRIGAU-
TIO.” AUGUST. VIND., 1615.

CHAP. XI.

How the Portuguese, Benedict Goës, a member of our Society, is sent
to find out about Cathay.

LETTERS from those members of the Society who were living at the Court of the Mogul brought to Western India¹ some news regarding that famous empire which the Mahomedans called CATHAY, the name of which was once familiar to Europe through the story of Marcus Paulus the Venetian, but had in the lapse of ages so fallen out of remembrance that people scarcely believed in the existence of such a country. The substance of what the Fathers wrote from time to time was, that the empire of Cathay lay towards the east, somewhat further north than the kingdom of the Mogul; and that they had reason to believe that many professors of the Christian faith were to be found in it, with churches, priests, and sacraments. On this Father Nicolas

¹ Literally, “From the letters of the members dwelling at the court of *Mogor*, it was heard in *India*.” With the missionaries of this age, and the Portuguese, *India* meant Goa and the Western Coast (just as with the Dutch now *India* means Java and Sumatra); Hindustan Proper and the dominions of the *Mogul* were called *Mogor*.