

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### BENEDICT GOËS AND ANTONIO DE ANDRADE.

In about A. D. 1600, the learned Fathers at Goa did not know that Cathay and China were two different names for one and the same country, and as they had heard many years before that somewhere in the N.E. of India there existed a vast country, the population of which was nearly entirely Christian, they seriously contemplated the plan to send missionaries thither with the object of »discovering Cathay».<sup>1</sup> An old Mohammedan merchant who had passed some 13 years at Kambalu or Peking, told Father JÉRÔME XAVIER at Goa, what he had seen and heard of Christianity in those regions.<sup>2</sup> Such rumours had also been heard from Tibet and China and were believed to have some kind of foundation. When Father Xavier, himself, together with BENEDICT GOËS, accompanied Emperor Akbar on his journey to Kashmir, he heard »that the kingdom of Tebat, which expanded eastwards from Kashmir all the way to Chetai or Catay, contained great numbers of Christians and many churches with priests and bishops».<sup>3</sup>

At about this time Goës happened to be at Goa. Emperor Akbar had, for the third time, invited Jesuit Fathers to come and settle at his court, and the three who went were Jérôme Xavier, Emanuel Pinheiro and Benedict Goës, who arrived at Lahore in May 1594. Akbar had great confidence in Goës, and therefore used him

<sup>1</sup> Sociorum litteris, qui Mogoris Regiam incolunt, auditum est in India de celeberrimo Regno illo, quod Saraceni Cataium vocant, cuius iam olim nomen auctore Marco Polo Veneto notû fuerat Europæis, sed aliquot deinde sæculorum memoriæ ita exciderat, vix vt esse crederetur. scribebant Patres illi Catai Regnum illud ad ortum spectare, Borealiorem aliquanto ipso Mogorum Regno: in eo fidei Christianæ cultores reperiri multos, templa, Sacerdotes, ritus, persuadebât. — De Christiana Expeditione apvd Sinas vscepta, ab Societate Jesv. Ex P. Matthæi Ricij eiusdem Societatis Cōmentarijs. Libri V... Auctore P. Nicolao Trigavtio Belga ex eadem Societate. Augustæ Vind. MDCXV. Lib. V. C. XI. p. 544.

<sup>2</sup> ... Xaverius non sine ratione credit, illud ipsum esse regnum Cataianum, cuius Marcus Paulus Venetus aliique Historici meminere, cuiusque incolas esse Christianos sed labe infectos Nestoriana tradunt ... — R. P. Petri Iarrici Tholosani Societ: Iesv Thesavrvs Rerum Indicarum ... Coloniae Agrippinæ Anno MDCXV. Tomus Tertius, p. 202.

<sup>3</sup> Benoit de Goës Missionaire voyageur dans l'Asie Centrale 1603—1607 par Le R. P. J. Brucker de la Compagnie de Jesus. Extrait des Études religieuses, Lyon 1879, p. 6 et seq.