

formed a warm patch of colour strongly in contrast with the cold simplicity of the grey marble.

The monastery of Santa Maria—commonly called the monastery of St. Jeronimo, from its having been occupied by monks of that order—is in connection with the church, and was founded with it in 1499 by King Manoel the Fortunate, on the spot where Vasco da Gama embarked on his first eastern voyage, in commemoration of the discovery of the Indies.

Churches, gardens, and palaces are scattered about, all well worthy of a visit; for there was a time when this country was amongst the foremost in the world. When in the full tide of its prosperous colonisation (A.D. 1500), it was from this port that the great Vasco da Gama sailed to the Cape of Good Hope, which had been previously discovered by Bartholomeu Dias in 1487; and on a second occasion, visited India. Lope Luares Francisco de Almeida followed with ships and men, conquered the Maldives, and established factories in Ceylon, Malacca, Sumatra, when the greater portion of the Eastern Archipelago was in the hands of the Portuguese. Trading relations were opened up with Pegu and Burmah, China and Japan, such as have only recently been granted us. In fact, no flag but theirs could fly along the whole African coast. No ship, without their permission, dared anchor in any harbour from Gibraltar to Abyssinia, from Ormuz to Siam. But in fifty-seven years—that is, at the end of the