

had not been brought before him, and requiring an answer from the commanding officer himself. This gave the gardener's wife time to see what had become of Koong-See. She had fancied she heard some noise in the apartment, and with intense curiosity she pushed the screen aside, opened the door, and peeped into the room.

Koon-See was not there.

There were marks of wet feet and dripping garments upon the floor, and upon the narrow ledge of the window, to which she rushed. A boat had just that instant been pushed off from the shore into the river, and in it, there was no doubt, were her mistress and her husband, the brave Chang.

The darkness concealed them from the eyes of friends or enemies, as the rushing river carried them rapidly away.

The gardener's wife gently closed the window, and hastily removed all traces of what had happened; she then cheerfully returned to the other part of the house, and waited for the officer.

He came, stimulated by a reproof for his delay, and commanded his soldiers to search the house, which they did most willingly, as upon such occasions they were accustomed to possess themselves of everything which could be considered valuable.

Their search was in vain, however, for they neither found traces of the fugitives, nor anything worth stealing.

The jewels were with Chang upon the river, and the gardener was but a poor man. They then visited the rice ground, but were equally unsuccessful there. They suspected that the woman had played them a trick, but she looked quite un-