

of one of his guards, and forgetting his dignity of judge to perform the office of executioner, he discharged on the generous Confessor a quantity of blows which made the blood gush forth. The criminal mandarin was obliged to interpose to put a limit to his rage, and to drag the stick from his hands. This horrible scene being concluded, Bo-Chanh ordered the martyr to be loaded with a heavy cangue, and exposed to the rays of the burning sun; but the captain charged with this barbarous order, had compassion on the persecuted, just man, and did not obey it. Some days after, this same mandarin could not help praising the constancy of him whom he had treated with such inhumanity: 'This Anthony Nam,' said he, 'is a man of sense and courage; he regards life as an exile, and death as a returning home.'

"Some time after he was loaded with chains, and again shut up with the criminals, where Dr. Borie was also confined. On the 23d of the ninth month a sentence was published, announcing the punishment of death against the Confessors: they were to be executed together; but in three weeks after (25th November, 1838), there came an order from the king, which, whilst it confirmed the judgment, deferred to another time the execution of Nam and of the catechist Tu Teh. Next day his order was communicated to them, with a promise of their life being saved if they would consent to trample on the cross: they refused with the same firmness as before. From that day, to the moment of their execution, they had the consolation of remaining together in the same prison, and of mutually encouraging each other to the martyrdom that awaited them.

"In the sixth month of the twentieth

year of the reign of Minh-Menh, (the year *Ki-hoi, of the hog*), the two prisoners were again brought before the mandarin, who, upon their refusal to apostatise, pronounced against them a new sentence of death. He immediately returned to the charge, in consequence of the order of the king, which commanded to make them appear again to exact from them an abjuration. The generous confessors persisted steadily in their resolution of dying, sooner than commit so great a crime: The same result followed from a final trial, made some months afterwards, in order to obey a rescript of the prince.

"It will, perhaps, be asked, why, have there been so many examinations, why so many entreaties, promises and threats, to extort an act of weakness from men whom the anguish of torture had not been able to shake? The reason is this. Anthony Nam was known to the judges, whose physician he was; his virtue as well as his knowledge were not a secret to any one, and on this two-fold account he was loved and esteemed by the great, as well as by the people: the testimony which he bore to the truth of the Gospel, was therefore of great weight in their eyes. To snatch such a party from the Church was for them a triumph not to be dishonoured; should one then be astonished that they made so many vain attempts, in the hope of subduing the constancy of the generous neophyte?

"At length, on the 20th of the sixth month of the twenty first year of the reign of Minh-Menh, the definitive confirmation of the sentence of death arrived. The day after, which was a Friday, Nam received this news from the mouth of his son. His daughter and another of his children made their way into his dungeon, and he said to them