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INSTITUTION
OF THE
HOLY CHILDHOOD.

THE DEPLORABLE STATE OF HEATHEN CHILDREN.

I never heard of the Society of the Holy Childhood before my return to France, says MR. GABET in the assembly of the Council of the Institute, and indeed I was only made acquainted with it on my arrival at Paris. Invited to assist at one of your meetings, I believed it to be my duty to draw up a few notes to impart to you from my own personal knowledge, as well the misery which your Society purposes to assist, as the means you should adopt to attain the heroic object proposed by you.

I must just speak of those children whose birth is the fruit of licentiousness. Very few are the women in China, who, under such circumstances, shrink from the guilt of infanticide to escape the certainty otherwise incurred of being buried alive; but, as to those who are not ashamed of having lost their honor, children of these are by no means irrevocably condemned to death: they are allowed to live, but are either sold or given to the first passer by, or, what is yet more unnatural, exposed in the streets.

Pardon me, Gentlemen, in bringing before you misery almost beyond your aid of charity; I hope the horrible details will induce you to pray for those who are the more helpless part of mankind.