

its appearance. It came through the western gate of the fortress, moved along the southern side and turned into the principal street. Mr. Cornay was alone in his cage, unaccompanied by any of his companions in misfortune; he was preceded by about three hundred soldiers, and around him were the executioners with the naked sword or axe in their hand. Before him was carried a board having his sentence inscribed upon it; behind him a cymbal sent forth from time to time its mournful sounds; the General who was to preside at the execution brought up the rear on horseback. The novelty of the spectacle (for never before was a European put to death in this country) attracted an immense concourse of people. The Christians of the neighbourhood, who had got notice, assembled also; but abstained from giving any external sign of sorrow. Whilst going round the fortress the martyr sang: the remainder of the time he employed in reading prayers from a book. Every one admired his tranquillity, and his greatness of soul surprised those idolators, who could not understand the motive from which it sprang. Outside the town the procession turned aside from the road into a field, chosen for the place of execution. Mr. Cornay in his cage was laid down in the north east corner of the place where he was to be immolated; the soldiers formed a circle around him, and planted their lances in the ground; they were each provided with a rod, and kept the crowds outside: the officer who presided placed himself at some distance with the herald and the cymbal-bearer; the board on which his sentence was inscribed, was placed near the Martyr; these words were upon it:

"The prisoner, called Tan, whose

real name is Cao-Lang-Ne (Cornay), from the kingdom of Phu-lang-Sa (France) and from the city of Loudun, is guilty as chief of a false sect, disguised in the kingdom, and as a leader of rebellion. The sovereign edict orders, that he be cut in pieces, and that his head, after having been exposed for three days, be cast into the river. Let this exemplary sentence make an impression every where. End of the inscription.

"The 21st of the eighth moon of the eighteenth year of the reign of Minh-Menh."

This sentence, reserved for criminals of State alone, is esteemed the most disgraceful punishment that can be inflicted: It consists in first having the arms and legs cut off, after which the unfortunate individual is beheaded and quartered. Although the amputation of the limbs is usually done by many executioners at the same time, it is easy to conceive what horrible tortures the poor sufferer must endure. In his character as Missionary, and even as European, Mr. Cornay was doomed to death; but, were it not for the accusation of rebellion, he should never have been sentenced to be quartered. In the mean time the cage was opened at the top with the help of a sword; and inclined to enable the prisoner to get out. He sat on the ground that his chains might be removed. The workman employed to do this happened to be a Christian: he boasted at having unriveted the three rings so delicately, that the Father did not feel the operation; having asked some token of remembrance, the holy Missionary plucked some hairs from his head and presented them to him. May this good Christian have a share in the merits of the Martyr. Four stakes were fastened