

books and pictures, made in a neighbouring congregation, gave such publicity to the affair, that the mandarin, no longer dared to allow his prisoner to escape. Nam was conducted to the superior mandarins, who had him brought before them, in order to induce him to trample upon the cross. He refused, and was cast into prison, after having been put in irons, and having had the cangue placed on his neck. Doctor Borie, and two Tonkinese Priests, were at the time chained in the dungeons of the same prefecture : this circumstance gave the confessors great joy, as they found themselves reunited at the moment that they were to consummate their great sacrifice.

Two days after the first examination, Nam was brought again before the mandarin, who was at first desirous of gaining him by mildness : 'Walk upon the cross,' said he to him, 'and it will be given to thee to see again thy family, and to console thy wife and thy children. If this crime causes thee any horror, do not lose courage ; I will allow thee to return to prison in three days ; there thou wilt find a European master, and he will absolve thee from thy fault.' Nam rejected this offer with firmness, and as he answered that it was better to be put to death than to obey the order of the mandarin, the latter ordered the satellites to drag the accused by force upon the cross. To resist was impossible ; but as it was to be feared that the spectators might take this act of violence for a voluntary profanation, the holy Confessor protested against the outrage done to his God : 'It is the work of the mandarin,' he cried out : 'I disavow it ; he alone is guilty of it.' The judge, ashamed of seeing himself vanquished, ordered his

cangue to be replaced, and that he should be sent back to prison.

'The report was, however, spread, that he had apostatised ; soldiers were ordered to announce in the barracks of the four regiments of the province, that he had trampled on the cross. When these heralds arrived before the place where Anthony was confined, and that he heard proclaimed his pretended defeat, he immediately exclaimed against this calumny : 'No,' said he, in a loud voice, 'I have not consented to the crime imputed to me.'

'The second day of the eighth month, all the mandarins having assembled in council, the military administrator Bo-Chanh, had Anthony called, and ordered him to trample on the sign of our redemption. Up in the refusal of the holy Confessor, the administrator springs like a madman from his seat, and takes Anthony by the arm and drags him by force, saying, 'Come, fool, walk with me : if I go to paradise thou shalt follow me there ; and if I fall into hell, we shall be together.'—Anthony being physically weaker than the mandarin, clung to him and raised his feet, not to touch the image of his God ; on the other hand, the administrator, embarrassed by such a burden, and unable to advance, called to his assistance two soldiers, whom he ordered to lay hold of the feet of the prisoner, and to place them in spite of him upon the cross. The Christian hero, then overpowered, but not conquered, by a superior force, cried out in a strong voice, 'You are witness, my God, that this action does not come from me : such a crime will not fall upon my head ; it is the administrator who does me violence.' Bo-Chanh, ashamed of his defeat, and unable to conceal his vexation, seized the raton