

Colonel having asked me how that was done, I gave him some explanation on confession. I read the fourth commandment and enumerated the faults which children commit against their parents; I also explained to them the sins which the people commit against the King and his representatives; and added, that when Christians came to confession, we interrogated them carefully on all this; and that, in order to obtain pardon, it is necessary to accuse one's self of even thoughts contrary to the respect due to superiors. Then raising my voice, I said to the Colonel, 'When such is the doctrine we preach, can our design be to excite rebellion?'—'No,' he replied, that is good doctrine; it is not on that account you have been arrested; it is solely because the King has forbidden your Religion, and that he does not wish you to remain in the country.'

At every visit I receive, one of the usual questions put to me by the curious is, whether I have a wife and family. I answer, of course, no, and explain to them the motives and advantages of this privation, which my hearers dare not fail to comprehend and appreciate.

* Saturday, 24th festival of St. John the Baptist, my Patron Saint, the Colonel came to tell me that that the Governor-general would pardon me, as well as the village of Bau-No would restore every thing belonging to me, and procure me the means of returning to Macao, for a hundred bars of silver, a sum equal to about four hundred pounds sterling, according to the present value, which is very changeable.* This was a more reasonable proposition than that of the young officer who interrogated me, and by whom my ransom was fixed at a thousand pounds. He asked me what were my

resources, and whether we converted the surplus of the presents we received from the Christians into silver and gold, to be sent to Europe. I answered, that so far from sending anything home, our parents and the faithful in Europe transmitted us money, without pensions and educated scholars. I added, however, that I should make known to the Christians of Bau-No the offer of the Governor. It was not that I calculated upon the resources which they had at their disposal, for they shall have quite enough to do to extricate themselves from embarrassment; but, that I was anxious to have an opportunity to make my situation known to Mr. Marette. I composed a letter then in the Annamite language, which I dedicated to a pagan in presence of the Mandarin of which the following is a translation:—

"Father Tan (this is the Annamite name of Mr. Cornay) greeting to his brethren, the Christians of Bau-No, prays God to grant them strength to support the tribulations which he has been pleased to send them.

"The day I was arrested, I felt much joy at suffering something for Jesus Christ, who first suffered for us; but when I saw our brethren bound and flogged, I could not restrain my tears. If I were alone, I should not be much troubled, for I hope, with the assistance of Grace, to be able to support all my afflictions that I may enjoy after death happiness without end. But I cannot forget my companions, who are suffering in neighbouring prisons more than I do; I cannot forget either the Christians Bau-No, who, having lost much, endure hunger and thirst, and have even to fear seeing their habitations razed to the ground; hence I never cease supplicating the Lord in their behalf. Yet the Governor general has signified to me, that if I can give a hundred bars of silver, he will pardon the village of Bau-No, as well as my ten fellow-prisoners, and will charge himself with sending me to Europe. My very dear brethren, if I were alone, I should refuse this proposal without hesitation and should prefer laying down my life for the Faith and

* What Catholic on reading this does not regret that he had not an opportunity of delivering this zealous Missionary from such cruel tortments, by contributing to his ransom? Should we not then subscribe with the greatest alacrity to the Institution for the Propagation of the Faith whose funds are employed in the glorious work of supporting and assisting those truly apostolic men in their efforts to extend the kingdom of Christ?