

All this happened on the 8th of July, but the persecution had broken out on the 4th, on which day the rebels invaded the principal residences of the mission, sacked them, and then burned them. There were present at that time, the old Vicar-General Father Quirinus Henlling and our own Father Cesidio. The former succeeded in getting away and was carried elsewhere by some trusty pagans. But Father Cesidio was captured, and being first maltreated in various ways, he was wrapped in cloths which were soaked in petroleum and burned while yet half alive. Let us hope that he will one day be the glory of our province of S. Bernardino. A kindly disposed pagan collected the remains and interred them near where once stood our residence. When the news of the outbreak and of Father Cesidio's death was sent to Mgr. Fontosati, he, faithful pastor that he was, insisted on going to the site of the disaster, where he was seized and martyred in the manner I have described above. On the destruction of the orphan-asylums, two hundred, or more, young girls fell into the hands of the mob, and were divided up as so much booty. The dwellings of the Christians were all burned down, everything was plundered, and to spare life was a favor. What misfortunes! What tears! Nothing is known of Father Bonaventure nor of the other missionaries; perhaps they have fled in another direction. Pardon me, your Excellency, for not writing sooner, for writing now so freely. Every day we receive news of massacres and conflagrations; we live in uncertainty amid a thousand fears and sorrows. I did not write you sooner because Mgr. Carlassare sent me to visit, in his place, different parts of his vicariate, and a few months afterwards I was recalled to Han-Kow, as things had taken such a bad turn. During my visit I had many consolations, the confirmation of about 900 neophytes and the baptism of about 200 adult catechumens. After these consolations came the sorrows I have just described. Here at Han-Kow there is comparative safety, for we have two men-of-war in the harbor. However, everyone is afraid, and many are leaving for Japan for fear of a revolt of the troops of the Viceroy, or of the rebel advance, or out of mistrust caused by the antipathy to foreigners which is characteristic of the Chinese.

Dear *Monsieur*, from my heart I wish you every grace and consolation. Bless me, and bless our unfortunate missions.

Your Excellency's most humble servant,

F. LUIGI M. SOXSINI, O. S. F.,

*Vicar-General.*