

by our prayers. Is it the pain of stripes, that frightens you? Do not be afraid, father: I will receive instead of you those stripes which are destined to you; let us then be content and courageous. It is now that we must prove that we are true Christians, and are disposed to die for Jesus Christ, as he was pleased to die for us.'

"It was by these words, and such like persuasions, that the young Michael Mi encouraged his aged father, and when the mandarins summoned them to the tribunal, in order to induce them by persuasion to conform to the orders of the king, Michael Mi usually answered for both. If the judges had recourse to the lash, the young Michael lay down on the ground to receive those that were intended for him, and when they were about to subject his father-in-law to the same punishment, he would get up, covered with blood, and say to the Mandarins, 'My father is aged and infirm; have pity on him, and allow me to be flogged in his stead;' he would then lie on the ground again, and undergo a second flogging, with admirable courage and fortitude, his blood flowing from his body, his flesh torn,—but not a cry, not a sigh, escaped his lips. The mandarins made incredible efforts to make him renounce his faith; as he was mayor of the village, a particular importance seemed to be attached to conquer him. Sometimes the magistrates exhorted him with mildness, sometimes they flogged him without mercy. To subject him to fresh tortures, they did not wait till his former wounds were healed. Will it be credited, that this courageous soldier of Jesus Christ received more than five hundred lashes in the space of forty days!

"'Fool,' said the mandarins to him, 'why are you so obstinately bent on dying? Your wife and children require your presence and protection; you are young and learned, and have well founded hopes of making a fortune, and enjoying a long and happy life. Trample upon the cross, and we will let you go; many other Christians have done it, and why not imitate them? When you return home, you may fol-

low the religion of Jesus; you will be perfectly at liberty to do so.'

"'Mandarins,' he replied, 'I will never abandon a religion I have discovered to be the true one. If you were asked to trample upon the head of the king, from whom you hold your dignities and places, would you dare to do so? Do you think that I would dare to profane the image of the King of heaven whom I adore? No doubt my wife and children attach me strongly to life; but I will leave them without fear, persuaded, that he, who has entrusted them to me, will watch over them, and unite them to me in heaven: as to the example of those who have trampled upon the cross, it has no more effect upon me, than the example of deserters has upon soldiers, who are brave and faithful to their king.'

"Michael Mi generally replied to the mandarins for his father-in-law. Antony Dich had also frequent occasions of giving proof of his courage in his answers to them, and of confessing aloud the name of Jesus Christ; such strength of mind in a man so advanced in years was a subject of astonishment to them; but we who know how pure his life had always been, were not surprised that God should uphold him in the days of suffering and trials.—Besides the encouragement he received from Father Nam and Michael Mi, his family earnestly exhorted him to persevere unto death in his fidelity to God. One of his eight children gave him a strong proof of his filial piety; he went to the great mandarin, and promised him eight bars of silver, if he would allow him to suffer and die in the place of his father. The mandarin commended his attachment to his aged father, but dared not consent to his demand. Michael Mi experienced also great consolation from his family: his wife went frequently to visit him with her last infant child, and exhorted him not to be uneasy on her account, or his four young children; for, with the grace of God, she hoped to be able to bring them up alone. This strong and valiant woman proved herself a wife worthy of a martyr.

"In this admirable family, in which the most