

1833, almost immediately after their arrival in the ancient royal city. This accident caused the journey of Mr. Cornay to be put off indefinitely, for the extreme difficulty of travelling through an unknown country does not suffer one to venture alone. The patient Missionary profited of this disappointment to repair to Dr. Havard, Vicar Apostolic, that he might receive priest's orders at his hands. On his way, notwithstanding the persecution which then raged, he was able, in the disguise of a Chinese, to visit the ancient royal city of Tong-King, which for a long time before had not been visited by any European.* Having

* In a letter written on the 3d of January, 1837, the year in which he suffered Martyrdom, Mr. Cornay speaks of this city in the following terms: near the gate by which I entered is the citadel, that is, an enclosure of walls, furnished with some pieces of small cannon, and surrounded with a moat: it serves at once as the residence of the public functionaries, as well as the quarters of the garrison; for here, where all are slaves and tremble, those who occupy situations under Government are under the necessity of taking refuge in fortified places. The streets of the interior of the city are straight and wide, but the houses are small and mean. In consequence of the scarcity of wood, the greater number is built of bamboos; a few in brick, and one story high, are considered palaces. In general all those houses are very long and narrow, each owner wishing to have his windows look into the street. The luxury of the warehouses is in keeping with the magnificence of the buildings; some stripes of red paper and little Chinese toys constitute their only ornament. The fine quarters of the city being of this character, it cannot be difficult to form an opinion as to the rest of the city and its suburbs: no where have I seen such miserable huts. The houses in the villages are larger, and have each a room for the reception of strangers; but in the city, there is nothing of this. In the river there is always a multitude of Chinese vessels, *talis*, &c., and a race of fishermen, who have no other habitation than their boats. At the distance of a day's journey there is, on

been ordained priest the 20th of April, 1834, he retired to the mountains, where, in order to render himself useful, he learned the first elements of the language.

For more than three years and a half was Mr. Cornay expecting the arrival of other couriers to conduct him to China, when, in January, 1836, a letter from the Vicar Apostolic of Su-Tchen informed him of the impossibility of procuring guides through the province of Yu-Nan. This letter left him at liberty either to remain in Tong King, or to return to Macao, in order to pass thence through the Chinese Empire to Se-Tchuen. Mr. Cornay decided on devoting himself to the Mission of Tong-King, though every thing seemed to dissuade him from such a resolution: the climate was unfavourable to him on the one hand, and on the other, when Father Marchand was arrested, the Emperor Minh-Menh published a furious edict against any Missionary who should be seized within the limits of his jurisdiction. By this edict, the civil authorities of the districts through which it could be proved an European had passed, were rendered responsible for the fact, and subjected to severe penalties,

This edict subjected us to the necessity of taking the most minute precautions: Mr. Cornay was besides reduced by the unwholesomeness of the climate to a state habitual debility: whilst a violent attack of sore eyes contributed

the same river, another city, which is not so large: these are the only two places in Tong-King which can be called cities. Except some fairs or markets, which are held on fixed days every month, in some of the larger villages, there is no trade-carried on; hence people come from the most distant points of the kingdom to purchase whatever articles they