

this heroic virtue is met with among the Annamites, who are naturally weak and inconstant. Whilst in Europe, Christians, who have received with their birth the inheritance of the faith, exhaust all the resources of their mind to destroy the religion of their forefathers; here timid neophytes, Christians of yesterday, bear testimony to it by their death and cement it with their blood! Yes, we have had great consolation in the course of this year, yet, not without much mixture of bitterness, for, side by side with martyrs, is found the shame of apostates. It is for that reason that we conjure fervent souls to pray to the Lord, that he may shorten the period of our trials; not that we desire to be liberated from the troubles which persecution brings in its train; for we did not come here to gather flowers; and were even all the miseries of this life accumulated on our head we would still support them with joy, in the certain hope of the felicity which will be their reward. But this abundant harvest, already ripe, and which we cannot gather in this vineyard of the Lord, ravaged before our eyes, without our being able to defend it; this inefficiency to which our ministry is reduced; it is this which makes us call with all the energy of our souls for more peaceful times. When, then, shall we find, either the peace of this world, that we may be able to clear away, by the sweat of our brow, some part of those uncultivated districts, or the glory of another life along with our martyred brethren?

"However, in the midst of all our mysteries, God has given us the grace to be neither sad nor cast down. What does it signify to us whether death be mild or violent? If the Lord be pleased that it should be so, ought it

not to be our greatest joy to conform our will to his? We, therefore, always stand cheerful and immovable at our posts. Will a good sailor abandon the sea because he sees it agitated by a blast of wind? No; he always furls his wide canvas, waiting for a favourable breeze to spread it forth once more.

"Besides, however great our losses, we are still far from having lost all, as in heaven we have still a Father, whose merciful arm has not been shortened; and on earth our dear fellow-countrymen, the fervent and zealous associates of the Propagation of the Faith, whose charity for us is not extinguished, and who will continue to help us, as they have ever done, with their holy prayers and their abundant alms.

"It is in this hope that we remain, &c.

"RETORD, Bishop elect of Acanthus, Vicar-Apostolic.

"JEANTET, CHARRIER, GAUTHIER, Missionaries-Apostolic.

ETERNAL PRAISES BE TO THE EVER BLESSED SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR.

Jesus, source of everlasting blessing,
Jesus, every joy possessing,
Come and repose upon this breast,
And make thy hapless creature blest!

Oh, silent, silent, soft and slow,
With streams of love this breast o'erflow,
And in its waters pure and deep,
My wearied soul and senses sleep.