

prevailent in this country is, that by eating the liver of great criminals, one becomes inspired with their courage. Yet the Annamite nation has, generally speaking, a horror of blood; what I have said can apply then only to a small number of individuals. One of the executioners tore off the nails too from one of the hands, and, I know not with what view kept them for himself.

The bloody work being over, the Mandarins, soldiers and executioners returned without any order, and in a great hurry, according to the usage of the country. The cage, the chains, and the head of the martyr were taken away, as well as the board on which his sentence was inscribed, but no one touched his clothes. It is said that at the moment of execution, Mr. Cornay gave his coat to one of the executioners who asked it of him: we bought it for ten pence.

A crowd of the curious, impatient perhaps to know what the Christians should do, remained on the spot. A physician, my agent, and a non-commissioned officer, both Christians, the female religious and the old servant, moved forward to collect together the pieces of flesh which were scattered about. As the religious who was charged to bring from the neighbourhood some men prepared before-hand, had not arrived, the blood was soaked in every thing which was found at the moment, the clothes of the Martyr, handkerchiefs and paper.

At this signal, the crowd, without distinction of pagans or Christians, rushed forward to collect also some drops of this precious blood. In vain did the nun remonstrate with the pagans: they begged to be permitted to continue. The flesh of the Martyr was squeezed to extract some of the blood, and even the ground was dug up in those spots where the blood had flowed in abundance. Such conduct on the part of idolaters is the more extraordinary, as they entertain a sovereign horror for the bodies of public criminals, and it has been never known in this province that the blood of a who died by the hand of the public executioner was ever gathered. But they pretended to employ

those relics as charms against the devil.

The crowd generally retired, each acknowledging the innocence of the accused, who was called Priest by all, but never chief of the rebellion. When, on his way to the place of execution, Mr. Cornay passed by the house of the Governor-General, the wife of this Mandarin came to the door and cried out, "Why thus sacrifice the innocent?" The execution of the European Missionary became thence-forward the theme of every conversation, and it was in particular a subject of surprise to all that his blood should have been gathered up.

In the mean time my Catechist arrived; he enveloped the pieces of flesh in the mats and Carpet, and offered the superintendent of the quarter a trifling sum for permission to bury them. The captain of the city police, who is a Christian, was also requested to protect the burial; both the one and the other complied with the request made them. All the scattered limbs were therefore collected together, bound with bands of linen, deposited in a coffin, and buried in the evening near the place of execution. My Catechist spent a part of the night with some Christians in endeavouring, but without success, to contrive the means of removing privately the sacred remains, and burying them in some more becoming place. The bodies of great criminals can be taken away only by stealth, and consequently that of a European and a Priest. It was necessary therefore to fill up the grave. Such is the sepulchre of a Martyr, who, having been counted amongst malefactors during his life, can find no other spot wherein to repose his mortal remains, than in the public place of execution amidst the graves of the profligate and degraded.

The head had been at first taken away by a boy, who in passing by the shops, amused himself in frightening all the persons he met. Having been taken from him and brought to the guard-house, we succeeded in getting it enveloped in a linen cloth and put into a basket. It is in this state that it was exposed on that evening, with the board on which the sentence of