

From the London Tablet.

CHINA.

THE FRENCH MISSIONARIES.—M. Miche, one of the French Missionaries, to whose escape we lately alluded, wrote the following letter, while in daily expectation of death. It is written from the dungeons of Hue, capital of Cochin China, and is dated the 14th of June, 1842:—"This, probably, is the last letter you will receive from me; it is a farewell letter. I am a prisoner for Jesus Christ, and loaded with chains ever since the 16th February. I trust that on learning these tidings, you—far from deploring my lot—will join with me in thanking the Lord for the signal favour which he has allowed to me, in calling on me to suffer for his glory. Arrested with M. Duclos, by a troop of Cochin Chinese soldiers, within the dominions of the King of Fien, six days' journey from the frontiers of Cochin China, and, consequently, in manifest violation of the rights of nations, they tied my hands behind my back, and dragged me to the city of Phuyen, the chief town of the province of that name. I was there loaded with chains, and cast into a dungeon with the greatest culprits of the kingdom. In the course of sixty examinations which I have undergone, the Mandarins have always attempted to induce me to apostatize, and have promised me liberty on condition of my trampling on the cross. I have always answered that, with the help of grace, my faith was above the fear of tortures, and that I was ready to die a thousand times rather than subscribe to their criminal orders. I have been four times exposed to their tortures, and four times has the Lord strengthened my weakness, fortifying me with the constancy necessary to the endurance of these terrible trials, without doing anything unworthy of a soldier of Christ. Immortal thanks to the Author of all good!—Not only does he sustain them who are feeble, and walk them round against the tortures, but he communicates the inexpressible secret which changes torment into joy and pleasure. We are now five missionaries in the same prison.—M. Charrier, M. Berneux, M. Galy, M. Duclos, and myself. The three first have long been condemned to death, and I hope, in a month or two, to be associated with them in honour. All of us keep Novena after Novena, that it may please the Lord to hasten the moment when we may shed our blood for the faith. The day on which our heads shall fall, will be, to us, a day of festival; we have determined that on leaving our prison we shall sing to the very place of punishment, the psalm—"Letatus sum" and "Te Deum." Adieu, dear brothers, adieu! we shall meet again in a better world, if the Lord

should deign soon to call me to him, as I hope my prayers will have more weight this day, and I will conjure our common Father to have you in his holy keeping.

The relics of M. Boire, one of the French Missionaries decapitated for the faith at Tongking, have reached Paris. On the 6th inst. the coffin, or case, was opened, and the remains identified; their authenticity being proved by numerous letters, &c. The relics were then placed in a glass case, and deposited, with due honours, at the house of the foreign missions.

The *Bengal Catholic Herald*, of the 27th May, has a letter from the Rev. Mr. Freycenon, of Singapore, successor of the Rev. Mr. Beurel, whose zeal and piety are the universal theme of admiration among our brethren of the Straits:

"Since 1840 a new mission has been established in Chinese Tartary. M. Verolle, Apostolic Missionary of Setchuem, has been appointed Vicar Apostolic. This exemplary prelate accepted the charge with respect and humility, although with the natural fear attendant upon an undertaking so arduous and important. But actuated by the zeal and devotedness of a French Missionary, he likewise experienced the unspeakable happiness in the prospect of the immense good which he would thus be enabled to effect for the glory of God and the advancement of our holy religion. After much trouble and anxiety, at the very outset of his career, by a protracted voyage of sixty-nine days, from Setchuem, he, accompanied by three priests, arrived at the place appointed for him by the common Father of the faithful Gregory XVI.

"We have had no news of the mission at Corea, presided by Monsigneur Imbert, nor of that at Setchuem, since 1840; in which year, whilst I was at the latter place, the Catholic Coreans being assembled in prayer on the day of Pentecost, a number of soldiers suddenly entered the place of worship—and burned, killed, and massacred all whom they could lay hold of. A Judas betrayed the poor Christians, and they fell victims to the blackest perfidy. The absence of any the least communication from the place since the above period, makes us apprehensive for the lives of the three Europeans who were at the time at Corea. It is possible that either they had joined the Coreans in the celebration of the Pentecost, and with them shared the fate of martyrs, or were subsequently seized, and after having been subjected to all the cruelties the black hearts of the soldiers could invent, were finally decapitated, hanged, or strangled.

"Massacres of the poor Christians, and of our beloved missionaries, are rare in Cochin China and in Tongkin. Five French Missionaries are now undergoing the hardships of imprison-