

had always lived correctly; and she herself, as well as I could understand, was dwelling largely upon her own praises, protesting that she did not know what libertinage and the ordinary life of the country was. I told her that I was very glad of it, but also that she should not think she was without sin, and that all men were subject to sin. However, as she persisted in declaring her own innocence, I represented to her that, if that were so, I could not baptize her; and that, even if I should baptize her, baptism would avail her nothing. I added that I was not asking her to [138] give me an enumeration of all her sins, but merely that she should testify to me her deep regret for having committed them. We considered this point for a good quarter of an hour; from time to time she asked me for baptism, but I answered her that it was not possible for me to baptize her as long as she used this language to me; that I had no other desire, that this was what brought me here, but that she herself bound my hands and prevented me from doing her this favor. I threatened her with hell, and spoke to her about it more in detail than I had done at first, telling her that hell was full of people who had not recognized themselves as sinners. Finally, it pleased the mercy of God to touch her heart; she confessed to me that she had sinned, that she was very sorry for it, and that she would sin no more. We baptized her and she died a few days afterwards.

On this same journey, a young man caused us the same difficulty. He was very sick, and we had instructed him with as much comfort and satisfaction as possible; his relatives also took great pleasure in listening to our holy mysteries. Everything proceeded in the most satisfactory manner, but he would not [139]