

[97] " I took a singular pleasure in all the questions that were asked me, saying to myself, ' At last God has had pity on me; at last the door will be open to me, and I shall soon be of the family of believers, and of the nation of the children of God!' When the sign of the cross was pressed upon my forehead, it seemed to me that the Devil fled, and that he would henceforward no longer have power over me. When they had me enter the Church, I was astonished that I did not rather descend into hell, all my sins again presenting themselves to my remembrance; but I took so much pleasure in this, that they all were to be blotted out in a moment, that I cannot explain it; I was astonished that God had waited so long to grant me so many blessings, all at one stroke. At once, as soon as they had poured the Sacred waters upon my head, my heart felt itself completely changed. In fact, it is altogether different from what it was; for since that time it seems to me that it does not wait for sin to come to it, on occasions for wrongdoing,—but you might say that it leaves me to go and meet evil things, to repulse and drive them away, with such [98] force that I am inclined to think it is not I who resist. It seems to me also that I have become deaf and blind, as it were, for I do not take any notice of what happens in my presence. Yesterday there was a great noise in our cabin,—the children made such a din that all my people were angry, and began to cry out and make more noise than the children themselves; I was not conscious of all this until they informed me of it. Indeed, I even began to wonder if I were not becoming deaf, until I perceived clearly that my heart was speaking to me so forcibly that I could not