

mand life. If thou foreseest, O great Captain of Heaven, that when our child grows older, he will not obey thee, we do not ask thee for his restoration to health; but as thou art good, grant him help both for his body and for his soul." On his side, the child was very well disposed, showing that he did not fear death. He made his confession, received the Body of Our Lord, and Extreme Unction, with full understanding, resigning himself to God's will, without asking for his life unless he were made to ask for it. His usual prayer was: "JESUS have pity on me, have mercy on me; I am sorry for having offended thee." At last, feeling that he was near death, he said to us: "I have no more strength. Here, feel my body; it is already cold; I am dying." He made a confession again, and, when he had received absolution, the defluxion suddenly suffocated him. When he was dead, I told François Xavier who was [50 i.e., 80] present, to console the father, fearing that this blow might unsettle him; but François said to me: "Noël has good courage. As soon as he saw his son expire, he told me that, while he saw him suffering, his soul was filled with sorrow; but that when he saw him dead, and beyond human aid, his heart felt relieved. Indeed, the good man came to me and said: "Nikanis, thou shalt say to our Captain"—he spoke of Monsieur the Governor—"that I thank him for having visited my son during his illness, and assure him that my heart is quite free, and that I remember well the promise that I have given to God, to serve him all my life,—I am not a child, to recall it. I will always pray to him; it is he who disposes of our lives; we are not masters of them." These words afforded much consolation to