

upon false hopes of some temporal advantage, and especially of a long life. Must not this incipient Church be refined like gold in the furnace?

As for our search for some other new treasures, our success has been similar to that of those who literally concern themselves with mines; who while digging in the earth find [35] often what they do not seek, and sometimes more than they would have dared to hope. For, aiming chiefly to find souls qualified for our instructions, in order to form with them some portion of the Church militant, we have scarcely found any except those fit for the Church triumphant,—God, it seems, by an extraordinary arrangement of his providence, giving us, everywhere that we have been, diseases for laborers, which have enabled us to run across these precious treasures which we were not seeking; or rather in a way that we were not thinking of. I mean that, of a thousand persons baptized since the last Relation, there are not twenty baptized ones out of danger of death; several of these, indeed, having died shortly after their baptism, and among others more than 260 children under seven years; and, further, a very great number who had not yet reached ten, twelve, and fourteen years, whose salvation we believe assured,—we have occupied ourselves, this year, in increasing the Church triumphant rather than the militant.

[36] I should be much perplexed if I were obliged to decide whether in that we had more or less advantage than what we claimed: be this as it may, we have reason to be content, since the grand Master who employs us has thus disposed.

Now of the two methods by which one could pro-