

tion. If they have spoken of me in evil terms in the past, you must indeed expect that it will be worse in the future; since what I have done hitherto is nothing in comparison with what I intend to do henceforth for God. It is now that I begin to know him, and that I desire to spare nothing for his service.

“ What makes me speak like this is, that I have just spent eight days with my brothers, where I have learned that I am nothing, and the great obligations that we are under to an Almighty God who has loved us so much. At whatever cost it be, I wish to fulfill his holy will; I will never blush to make profession of what I am, and the dread of death will never close my lips when any opportunity shall present itself for speaking of his greatness. I tell you this to the end that you may prepare yourself for everything that God shall will to do with me. They will soon assure you quite afresh,— what they have often assailed your ears with,— that I am one of the causes of the ruin [59] of the country; that the French have taught me the secret, and that I am past master in the matter of spells. Others will come to tell you that the resolution to kill me is adopted, or even that they have already split my head. Listen peaceably to all these sayings without disturbing yourself; lower your head, and be silent, lest you speak inopportunately; for you have not yet sense enough, not yet having faith. Rest, if you can, upon this thought, that he whom I acknowledge for my master will dispose, for my good, of everything which concerns me. Howbeit, do not hold me in the same rank as those who are suspected among us of being sorcerers; those have every reason to be anxious for their persons,