

being alone, and having no other support than the devil, who has no power. But do not think that I am alone; I have for me and with me the one who is all-powerful: if he take me into his protection, all men, and even all the demons of hell, can do nothing against me. I have on my side the Angels, who are in greater number than all men, and all [60] the Saints of Paradise, among whom there are already a good many of our fellow countrymen, who are ceaselessly praying for me. That is what swells my courage; in a word, fearing God, I fear nothing. Finally, the worst that can happen to me, in your opinion, is that they may split my head, as they do to the sorcerers of the country; but I would have you know, indeed, that I should account myself too happy to give my life for the one who has loved us so much. Do not fear that our family will be marked by any infamy thereby; if God does the favor to our country to have it embrace the Faith, my memory will be honorable to all posterity, and it will be said forever that I shall have been the first who preferred losing life to losing the liberty of living openly like a Christian. As for you, if you had even but a little faith, since you are not wanting in affection for me, you would rejoice in the news of my death, which would no doubt place me forever in possession of all good things conceivable, and you yourself would have much interest therein: for what good can I do you in this life? All [61] that I can do is to pray to God for you and your family, and urge you to embrace the faith; but in heaven I shall be able to do much; and, having more knowledge of your misery and consequently more compassion for you, I will use greater urgency with