

below, is in extremity; she consents to her baptism, her relatives oppose it. While the contest was going on, this little innocent [90] gently raises her voice; "They warn me," she exclaims, "not to follow my sister, not to go with her;" this was her elder sister, who had wretchedly died some days before, after refusing baptism: no doubt this one did not follow her, for she received it devoutly. These are ineffable goodnesses of God, who wills thus to increase, up yonder in heaven, the Church which is there triumphant.

Now to speak of this Church militant,—we have seen, to our great regret, during the course of this disease, the nature of the soil on which it was built; it was mostly sand,—the winds and the storms have almost thrown everything to the ground. The loss of life, or of that of those on whom it depends, is a difficult matter to smooth over; especially with barbarians who for two or three thousand ages had never had the thought that there was any other good than that of the present life. Thence it happens that the things of heaven make scarcely any impression on their minds, except for the time of prosperity; for as soon as there occurs [91] anything which clashes with the state of the present life, they can hardly contain themselves from having recourse to their dances and feasts, to the observance of their dreams, and other diabolical inventions, from which they hope to derive some help. The public belief that we were the cause of their misery then possessing their minds, and the fear of being included in the general massacre with which we were continually threatened,—all these things have brought it about that many who had professed the faith in the pre-