

ceding years, have not only returned to the practice of their former superstitions, but have also publicly declared that they renounced what they had embraced.

Among these latter was one of the most important in the village, and one of the best minds in all the country, whose temperament and good qualities had always caused us to desire his conversion, and to ask it of God with much earnestness; in fact, a little before the course of the disease, he requested baptism and was baptized. *Sed non hos elegit Dominus;* [92] it seems that God had granted our request only to teach us that we, no more than he, must have respect for persons,—or rather, that it was for him and not for us to choose his elect; insomuch that, at the first whirlwinds which arose against us, this man gave up his chaplet, and made every sort of public and private protestation of his renouncing Christianity. Howbeit, he has been one of the worst treated, the disease having taken from him a part of the best he had in his family; perhaps God has preserved him, in order one day to show him mercy.

Another man, having likewise renounced Christianity, being stricken with the disease, had recourse to their diabolical remedies. God has prolonged his life, but it seems that it has been only to render him a spectacle of his Justice,—he alone, of all those who have escaped, having remained blind, and thin as a skeleton; not long ago he died impenitent.

Now if the fall of many of our Christians has afflicted us, the resolution and [93] the courage of some others has filled us with consolation. Is it not a pleasure to consider a good woman of seventy years, who at that time heard nothing but blasphem-