

for. The father, at the loss of this son, which followed the death of two other little children, did not escape being [126] vigorously attacked both within and without his house; his friends and his wife said to him, the same as was formerly said to the good Job: *Benedic Deo, et morere*. Nevertheless, he was entirely faithful to God; he continued in his same fervor, and again came into our Chapel, to thank God for the death of this well-beloved son, and to offer him quite anew all the children whom he had left.

But alas! if the spirit is prompt, the weakness of the flesh is great: the poor man was taken by surprise,—Our Lord having continued to try his fidelity and his constancy. Note what our Fathers write to me in the matter. “Alas! how the good René has need that we redouble our prayers for him. *Cecidit de cælo Lucifer qui mane oriebatur*; so many dead from his cabin and of his own children, and the extremity in which he finally sees a daughter of his, twenty years old; the importunity of his wife, who does not cease to torment him; the assurances that a false magician has given them, that he would cure their daughter,—all these things at last made him fall into sin, and have recourse to those diabolical [127] remedies. For that matter, this magician is the only subject of conversation in all this village; he has openly promised to cure all the sick, whom he would sprinkle with a water about which his demon, he says, has taught him. They have held a council three whole days, for an affair of such consequence: they have made thirteen notable presents to this impostor. Straightway afterward, he began his operation: he sprinkled all the sick of the village.