

fess this Faith, and practice on all occasions the commandments of that great master of our lives whom we come to announce to them, but protesting openly that he is ready to die rather than offend in that matter his conscience. A spectacle truly worthy of God, and one which no doubt has delighted all the Angels; although this infidel land has not derived from it the advantage which so holy a zeal deserved. God grant him the grace to persevere even till death.

The whole family of this good Christian has felt the effects of his piety; his wife, his children, his nephews and his nieces all follow his example. Nearly all have fallen into the disease; their only recourse has been to God alone. Even a little girl of eight years, seeing herself the first one attacked with smallpox, cast her thoughts to heaven. "Great master of our lives," she said several times in the day, "ordain concerning my death just as [141] you shall please. I have no sense, and know not what is good for me; I ask you nothing but your paradise;" but her heart spoke more than her mouth.

Accordingly, God has preserved them; and that has been a very strong argument to put down the infidels when they maintained that the Faith caused them to die, and that this great God of the Christians was powerless.

This Christian's wife, Marie Annetta, contributes the most to her husband Joseph's zeal: some months ago, she plainly showed so.

Father Paul Ragueneau, having learned on Shrove Tuesday that a woman of the village of Ossossané was dying, went thither as soon as possible. Our Lord himself had prepared for him this poor patient; he no sooner opens his mouth to speak to her of God