

prison, and made to fast four days without eating or drinking. The acts of justice that they see from time to time exercised on delinquents, give them these ideas. Charles Meiachkawat, who was very recently baptized, was in this assembly; not only did that not frighten him, but, on the contrary, he was comforted by it: "I am one of you," said he to them; "all that you shall decide upon will please me. It is in earnest that I believe in God; and if you have any conviction that I shall lose courage, I now give you liberty to bind me and to hold me in prison; but my heart tells me that I shall walk straight, and that what I have embraced with so much affection will never leave my mind."

This meeting took place in the silence of the night, and in the morning they came to give us information of it. We answered that they proceeded with too much severity; that mildness [20] had more power over souls than force; that a woman had very recently said to us that what hindered her from urging her baptism was, that she did not believe she could live so devoutly as did the Christians, and she would not be able to come every day to Mass as they did, in all the severity of the winter, when they were sometimes rather far from the Church, and snow, hail, and cold besetting the way. "What will happen, then," we said to them, "if you speak of prisons to people who are weak, and not yet enlightened by the torch of faith?" They did not cease to pursue their point, and to say resolutely that they had formed a plan among themselves, that the first of their number who should commit any fault, however inconsiderable, should suffer imprisonment and fasting. This frightened the weak, and the report spread among