

low me; not having seen her, I struck her on my return. I wish no person with me," said he, "who does not pray to God." "Yes," the Father answered him, "but you know well that it is not a holy day and that she is under no obligation to be present to-day at holy Mass." "It is true," he replied, "but, since it is better to be present there, she ought to have gone—considering too that I had invited her, and that it is our custom to hear it every day. Nevertheless, I merit chastisement, for I have let myself be carried away by my indignation; give me a note, so that I may do penance for my sin." The Father thereupon began to excuse this fault, and to show that this good woman was indeed grieved at having disobeyed, that she loved her husband, and that a similar thing would never happen to her again. [23] This poor creature, beginning to speak, said, with a voice full of mildness and regret: "My Father, I have in my heart what you have on your lips;" and then she was silent. The conclusion was that the very next day at dawn they both came to confession; but what extremely astonished us was that this good woman never excused herself, whatever her husband said to her, or however he reproached her. Notwithstanding, she had an excellent reason for excuse; for she told us afterwards that when her husband called her to go to Mass, she did not hear him; nevertheless for fear of offending him, she had preferred to appear guilty, rather than to excuse herself.

Some time thereafter, a young man having fallen into a somewhat gross fault, for he became intoxicated, one of his Christian relatives resolved to have him put into prison. When they asked the opinion of