

run across a little child of ten days; I well see that it is not for this mortal life; I baptize it, and the next day it is in heaven.

“ Making an excursion to another little village, I find a child of two days, whose mother had come from another village to be confined in this one. This child had been born only to be happy, for it died soon after holy baptism, which I conferred on it by the favor of a good woman who is well disposed toward the Faith, and whom God, it seems, had at the same time brought from ten leagues’ distance, for no other purpose than to render me this assistance.” Thus far the Father.

These so gracious providences of God, and several other like acts of salvation for some predestined souls, [184] cause us plainly to discern that we are not all alone, and that there are a thousand persons in France who lift their hands to heaven while we are in the fight. In eternity we shall see to whom the spoils belong which we conquer here from the powers of hell. So many vows and so many holy desires for the conversion of these peoples; so frequent and so continuous mortifications, which are borne for this object; and especially three thousand Masses which are said for the same purpose on the second Sunday of each month, and countless communions which are received on the same day (a favor which has been devoutly obtained for us by a person of great merit, who seems to be in the world only to oblige heaven and earth),—all this, no doubt, is what moves God’s heart, and causes him to pour upon us so many graces. He is, it would seem, gently compelled,—this great God,—not to refuse to so powerful an effort of prayers, a number of souls. Who