

knows whether—seeing that these peoples would not have profited in health by the words of [185] their salvation—he has not permitted all these diseases in order to draw to himself in this way those whom he had chosen? Is it not reasonable to believe that 450 children, who have died after baptism, have been snatched from this world for fear that mischief should alter the whiteness of their innocence? And why shall we not think that strange tribes, among whom we have never set foot,—who this year have come to die in our hands, being driven from their country by famine,—have been led, without their thinking of it, by the holy Ghost, who has wished by this means to furnish and complete that number of souls which he was destined to put in heaven by virtue of all these prayers?

It must be acknowledged that we cannot answer for the future, and that by contemplating these affairs with eyes of the flesh, one does not see the light in them which many would desire therein. But what then? this is God's work; he alone sees the end of it and knows the means for it; it is for us to follow him, and not to anticipate him. One must serve a master according to his will, and, whatever betides, be content, provided [186] that he be so: it is the glory of God that things go as he wills. Often we advance the most when we think we are far behind; we have seen, in the case of several sick people, that we have gained much by instructing them when they were in health, although at the time it seemed to us that we had lost all our labor; several have adored, at the hour of death, him whom they blasphemed during their lives. The word of the Gospel germinates when the holy Ghost wills to render it fruitful; it is