

my dearest brother; if we have spent two years— Even six, Even thirty—in turning a deaf Ear, let us Believe and Hope that to-morrow we shall Begin to open our ears to This Voice, so gracious and so patient. And why, I beg You, should we not thus Believe, since we see and know that the patient JESUS still calls us? But with a loving call, and one which will gain the day, only we know not when; let us hope, at all events, that It will be as soon as possible. Oh, I do not Believe that we can commit a greater fault in the service of God, than to lose Courage, and to allow our Hearts to be cast down by distrust and pusillanimity. All the other sins are nothing in comparison with That one,—at least, there is none which so much impedes our progress as These low opinions of the Goodness of God toward us; and very often It is by That sin that the Devil seizes Our Hearts in order to let into them afterward all the others. My Dear brother, let us not be alarmed for not having advanced nor even for having receded; there is hardly any soul to which That does not sometimes happen. But let us Hasten to the purposes which God has for deriving his own Glory from These Unfaithful acts; Your sufferings and Inconveniences will purge your Heart. Hope this, therefore, although it seem to You that You take them very ill. I pray God to grant you the grace to find everywhere the peace of Your Heart. I Think that you must find Consolation in reading the other [works] of Monsieur de Salles.⁸ I know not whether you have seen a Certain little book Entitled It is A little treasure of Consolation, This Little book; but the source of all sweetness, and the whole support of Our Hearts is JESUS in the