

storm; the clouds are about to burst over their heads, and the thunderbolts of Heaven seem to seek only them. The good old man again was about to resort to the same prayer, and already held his rosary in his hand, when he reflected that he was obeying his dream. "I have sinned," he said to his son, "but without thinking of it. Let us not say that prayer now, for otherwise I should fulfill my dream. Let us only pray to God in our hearts. If he wishes to preserve us from this storm, he is not attached to one prayer more than another." I know not whether there is anything [64] extraordinary in this, but the cloud parted and discharged itself on either side near the spot where they were. Not a drop of rain fell on them, and they thanked our Lord for having protected them.

Very often many things happen to these good people which are, without doubt, rather remarkable; but, owing to their simplicity, they reflect on it only for the moment, and content themselves with thanking God when they have derived any benefit from it. This one I only heard by accident, when the good man, long afterward, asked us whether he had committed a grievous sin in obeying his dream at first, and how he should have behaved on that occasion, according to God's will.

I am resolved to be brief in this Relation, and space must be left for the following Chapters. If I say that some have been abandoned by their own parents, through hatred of the Faith; that others, who have been solicited to do evil, have imitated the Holy Joseph and the chaste Susanna; that many take pleasure in sufferings, and thank God for them; that most of them lead [65] as innocent a life, in the