

did not satisfy the insatiate desire that they feel, of seeing themselves happy. "My heart," he said, "belongs entirely to God, and, as I think but of him, I can speak of him alone. Heaven and earth and the waters, all call on me to praise him continually; and, even if I should cease to look upon the works that he exhibits before our eyes, in order to manifest himself, I would never cease to love him." But what is excellent in this man is, that his actions speak more loudly than his words. He has renounced his office [77] of Captain, for fear that it might compel him to some offense against God. His mother, his wife, his relatives, all his village, are leagued against him; but nothing of all this has shaken him. "Poverty," he said to us, "will not frighten me. God shall take the place of relatives and of my mother, and he alone shall be my support. Let my wife leave me, and deprive me of my children. It is true that I love them above all else in the world, but their love shall never prevent my love for God. My heart is prepared for everything. A glance toward Heaven makes all that I see on earth appear to me as nothing; and the Belief that I have in a hell causes me to look upon the miseries of this life as slight evils, which are unworthy of fear when there is a question of avoiding eternal unhappiness." At last, his patience has won over the greatest Infidels; his courage has compelled them to admit that Faith lifts the heart above both the blessings and the misfortunes of this life; and his joy, that manifested itself in the midst of all these trials, has made them acknowledge that there are pleasures for mankind other than those of the body, and in which the senses have no share.