

the time; but they knelt on both knees in the mud. The Father gave orders to bring them some boards to kneel on, that they might not soil their clothes. "No, my Father," they said; "we deserve much more, for we have angered him who has made all." They publicly begged pardon of God, acknowledging themselves to be unworthy to enter his Church. They nevertheless prayed us to have pity on them, and to admit them in the company of the others. "Pray for us," they said to those who were in the Church. In fact, we said a short public Prayer, and then the Father told them that, as God was all kindness, he would allow them to enter his House. Some of them entered at once; but others, who were angry with themselves on account of their sin, took their places in the muddy water [12] outside of the Church, and cried out: "We will not enter, my Father; we have too deeply offended God. It matters not that we are in the mud, and that the rain falls on us. We are unworthy to be in the company of those who love God." The Father was surprised and touched, on observing such fervor; he left them alone, and they passed the whole time of Mass in this posture of humility and Penance. Such devotions are good in a nascent Church, in order that the Pagans may know that the sins of Christians come not from their doctrine but from their own weakness.

That is not all; the Captain of that band wished to submit to the same ignominy as his people, saying that, although he had not become intoxicated, he had nevertheless drunk, and was guilty. The conclusion was that some of them on entering the Church threw on the steps of the Altar some alms which served to provide food for the poorer ones.