

evil spirit does with us as he wishes. For my part, I greatly fear that he will stop me on the way, and catch me in the midst of my career. And, if ever I go to Heaven, the Father who teaches us will be so high up that I shall hardly be able to see him. For what are we doing, in order to get there? Now, then, I wish to manifest more courage in future. I wish to atone for my sins and to walk straight for the remainder of my days." Thereupon he drew out the great discipline, that was hidden beneath his robe; and showing it to the whole assembly, and raising his voice, he said, "This is not that Hell-fire that I have deserved. It is but a little straw, in comparison with what is suffered down below in the abode of the Demons. Even if my whole body were covered with blood from this whip, and my flesh were torn by blows, I would not even then consider that I had paid my debts and satisfied God's justice. But I know that he is infinitely [43] good, and has mercy on those who ask pardon of him with all their hearts. Here," said he to the Captain, "here is the discipline that I place in your hands, and here are my bare shoulders that I present to you. Strike, and spare me not." The Captain at once took him at his word, and delivered a shower of blows on his back. The penitent humbly begged pardon of God for his sins while he was being scourged, and threw himself on the ground, to kiss it; and, on rising, he urged all the Christians to follow his example. He cried out, "Come, all ye who are guilty; come and present yourselves before the Altar. Come and satisfy the justice of God." There was no dispute as to who should go first. The nearest went the first; they all came up, one after another, to perform their