

over the Innocent Isaac. "My God" (exclaimed this good Father, continuing his prayer), if I have received evil tidings from your hand, have I not cause now to bless you for the life of my son whom you give back to me as one risen from the dead, at the moment when I thought that he was killed? It is you who have withdrawn him from the peril; but I beg you that he may never fall into sin; and confer the same grace upon me, so that he and I may praise you in Heaven for this favor and for others, that we can never acknowledge here on earth."

Faith makes no distinction between the sexes, and all ages are ripe for Heaven. A Christian woman, while speaking one day to some infidels whom she exhorted to embrace the Faith, said to them: "Alas! even if there were no Paradise after death, and if our Faith [168] should deceive us, I would still believe, in order to enjoy even in this life a peace and repose of mind that cannot be conceived by those who remain in infidelity. Before my baptism, I was every day full of anxiety; present ills tormented me; fear of misfortunes that might happen to me, but which perhaps will never occur, failed not to afflict me before their time. The tidings of ills that were past renewed my sorrow, and the tears that I had already dried; and even the recollection of my former pleasures caused me regret, because they existed no longer and because I could look upon them only as lost to me. Now, nothing of all that afflicts me; but, on the contrary, I derive my good from my evil, because whenever fears, sorrows, or misfortunes assail me, I think of the happiness promised to us by the Faith which is free from any bitterness."

"Not long ago," she added, "while I wept for