

the death of one of my brothers and of one of my children, I would never have believed that tears could be so sweet; but, while they [169] flowed from my eyes, my heart was quite consoled by the thought that those for whom I wept were in Heaven, and that an Eternity would unite us so that death could not separate us." "But," they said to her, "what wouldst thou say if thy husband were to die, he who refuses to become a Christian?" "I would console myself," she replied, "with the thought that God must dispose as he wills of what belongs to him; he knows what is best, and perhaps he awaits the hour of his death to grant him a grace of which he renders himself unworthy during the course of his life."

A young Christian woman in her first confinement betrayed no sign of pain. When she was asked if, in reality, she had not suffered, she replied: "Alas, the pains were excessive; but I thought of God and of the blessing of the Faith, which has delivered me from eternal torment. I offered him at the same time the child that I brought into the world, and begged that he might die after receiving holy Baptism, rather than be permitted to fall into mortal sin."

Not all our Christians [170] have such sentiments. Some have not that courage; others fall into sin, and have disastrous relapses; some lose heart in the middle of their career; all are not strong in the spirit of holiness. But I know not in what spot on earth we can find every one perfect. If the seed that JESUS CHRIST himself came to sow on earth fell sometimes among thorns, sometimes on rocks, and sometimes in sterile places; and if a good portion that had fallen on good ground was eaten by the