

birds before producing the fruits that were expected of it, we must not be astonished if the same thing happen here. *Non erit discipulus super Magistrum*. It is sufficient that a portion comes to maturity, and it is notable that in some cases this seed brings forth a hundredfold. But I cannot too often repeat that a patience is needed which can withstand every trial, and be discouraged by nothing. He who is now among the weakest will one day be a great Saint.

Apropos of this, I remember an answer given some time ago by a good Christian to one of our Fathers, who, observing in him [171] sentiments of eminent perfection, and being astonished at the graces that God gave him, asked him how long it was since he had attained that degree. "You embarrass me as much," he replied, "as if you asked me how long it is since I have reached my present stature. As my body has grown since my birth, without my perceiving it, so has my Faith grown since my Baptism. I know not," he added, "what I should do to respond to these graces, or even how to pray; but what I cannot weary of telling God when I pray to him is that I believe with all my heart, and that he send me death rather than sin."

A Captain, who is one of the highest in rank in the whole Country, was asked before his Baptism if he really believed the truths of our Faith. "My words," he said, "may mislead; but I wish my actions and my conduct to reply instead of my tongue. Wait until Winter comes, until the devils are unchained, and I am solicited to sin; then you and I shall be able to see, without being deceived, whether the Faith reign in my [172] heart." In fact, since then his actions have not belied his words;