

his life has been beyond reproach and his Faith has always been known by his works. He has been assailed a thousand times by slanders and by calumnies; his relatives have risen against him; his friends have openly made war on him; and in secret the beauties who formerly had vanquished him have endeavored to ruin him by loving him; but he has always been true to himself, and, armed at all points with Faith, he has been victorious.

Shortly after his Baptism, when he saw that, in the performance of the duties of his office of Captain, he was called upon to be present at some superstitious ceremonies forbidden to Christians, he left the Company, and gave orders in his cabin to bear elsewhere the symbols of his authority and the public presents of which he was the custodian. These are not the Regalia nor the immense riches of European Princes; but they are what is here considered the most honored and the most precious treasures of the Country. The Infidels were astonished at this act; his father, his wife, his relatives asked him what he meant to do. "I am a Christian," he replied; "and if to avoid [173] sin I must abandon even life, my soul is not attached to my body." The village is in a commotion; the council meets to deliberate on the matter; the leading men are deputed to wait on him, and they beg him not to abandon them. "I am a Christian," is his only answer; "the Faith is dearer to me than honor and wealth." They spend the night and day in endeavoring to bend his will; but his only answer is that he is a Christian. "Then," said the Elders, "we must resign ourselves to seeing our Country ruined, since our chief Captains range themselves on the side of the Faith.