

and who, merely to look upon, enraptured his heart with joy. The Father answered him that there was no one. "No, no," he replied, "I have lost neither eyes nor judgment; I see him quite near thee. He accompanies thee; and I know by his face that he comes to help me to die well; do both of you have a care for my soul." We know nothing more of this, but we are not ignorant that the Guardian Angels of these good Neophytes labor, much more than we, to guide their souls to Heaven.

Here is an act of the mercy of God. One of the greatest enemies of the faith in the Mission of Saint Ignace, chancing to be near death, feels himself influenced from Heaven, at the first sight of the Father who was going to speak to him of his salvation. "Alas!" said he to the Father, "how good is God, even to the impious, since he brings thee hither in order to grant me [101] at death a favor of which I had rendered myself unworthy! I ask him for pardon with all my heart, and of thee I ask Baptism. I detest the sins of my past life, and I firmly believe the truths you preach, just as much as heretofore I felt horror of them, and blasphemed against them. Hasten to baptize me; for, if I have lived as an impious man, I wish to die as a good Christian." The Father is astonished, but happily; and, the sickness urging him, he can no longer postpone the Baptism, after which the patient soon fell, as it were, into a death-agony.

An hour before he gave up his soul, the infidels having gained the advantage over the Father, and trying to drive him out,—that Dying man all at once returns to himself, recovers speech, and takes up the Father's cause. His zeal even gave him quite enough