

to be made scoffing remarks about our faith, was strongly tempted to pray to God only in secret, when the time for the repast had come; but having [63] perceived the temptation, and desiring to overcome it, he began to pronounce his *Benedicite* so loudly that all the company were surprised. "Cease to be astonished," he said to them; "you must know that I have been assailed by two very different kinds of shame. The first was on account of you, whose raileries I feared; the second was on account of myself and of God, who looks at me, and before whom I was ashamed not to dare to appear a Christian. The latter has been the stronger, and because the first inclined me to pray to God only in secret, the second has impelled me to pray to God so loudly that every one should know that I am, and will die, a Christian; that what you mock is my glory, and the greatest happiness that I esteem in this world."

A Christian woman named Marthe Aatio, having chanced to be on a journey with a number of infidels, never omitted to pray to God morning and evening, before and after the meal, and to make the sign of the cross on two little twins that she was nursing, each time when she gave them the breast, although the infidels pointed their fingers at her, and made sport of her. Her husband, who was not a Christian, placed himself [64] also on the side of her opponents, saying that she was farnished to pray to God; and that when in their Village, she ran as quickly to the Mass, at the first sound of the Bell, as if one had invited her to a feast,—leaving everything as it was, whatever work she had in hand.

"Do not suppose that I ought to blush for that reproach," answered this good Christian; "you could