

his tears. Those present were moved thereat with a holy awe; but this good man, thinking of nothing but God, was giving himself up to his grief with as much freedom as if he had been alone. Having returned to himself, they asked him what thing had touched him. "The remembrance," he answered, "of the sins which I committed before knowing God! Oh, why did I not know then that he saw me? never would I have had the heart to offend him. I have felt in the depth of my soul that he was saying the same to me as to the adulterous woman,—that he would not condemn me for what pertains to my past life; and how can one contain one's tears, to see, after so many sins, that nevertheless, he is pleased to love me, and to show me mercy, as much as if I had employed all my life in his love?"

Another, having allowed himself to lapse inadvertently into some fault, came to find, as early as day-break, that one of our Fathers who was instructing him. "I beg thee to have pity on me," he said to him, "and to efface my sin as soon as possible. I have spent the whole night in prayers and in tears, without having taken a moment of sleep. Those of my cabin who saw my sin have been witnesses of my [81] tears; but God, whom I have offended, has known those of my heart, which have been the most bitter; I hope that he will show me mercy."

Having received absolution, he made a feast the same day, to which he invited the infidel Captains, his relatives, and all those who had been either the cause or witnesses of his fall. "I have assembled you," he said to them, "in order to let you know the regrets which I feel for my fault; and that, if I have sinned, I have learned that a Christian can have no