

with a fervor and respect which was imparted to all those who were watching him.

Be this as it may, the effect of his prayer made manifest to us that it had been heard,—he found himself perfectly cured; and—what he himself esteemed more than his cure—he was then so enlightened and so filled with God that never had he seen the faith so glorious, never had he seen so clearly the vanity of this life, never had he so highly esteemed the blessing which he possessed in being a Christian. Accordingly, it was for these inward graces that he rejoiced with us, and for these he thanked God more than for his health.

He returned to his own Village as early as the next day, without a stick and without aid, with a step and gait as firm as if he had never had any ailment; and since then his constancy, his zeal, his devotion, and the love [95] which he has for those who teach him, and who have taught him, he says, to know his God,—in a word, his exemplary life, truly worthy of a Christian, at an age during which nature has no inclination except for excess,—all that causes us to hope that he will not stop there, and that he will be able one day to be an Apostle for his own country, and carry a more divine fire into the nation of fire.

Some take their stand for the faith almost of themselves; others yield themselves up only after long resistance. Some long seek the entrance thereto, and with many pains; others will see themselves in Heaven by an unexpected encounter, and as if by chance. The providence of God is alike for all; but it appears to us more gracious in the case of the latter, because we see in it something inexpressibly more divine.