

reduced. He therefore proceeded to the house of Our Lord, the day of his nativity on the earth. But, alas! who could express the sweet consolations of his soul, when, after having been so long with Barbarians, and consorted with Heretics, he saw himself with the children of the true Church? "It seemed to me," he said, "that from that time I was beginning to live again; it was then that I tasted the sweetness of [119] my deliverance." Having confessed and received communion, and been present at the Blessed Sacrifice of the Mass, he went to visit those who had so charitably invited him; they were poor people, but endowed with a charity truly Christian. Having seen his hands all torn, and learning how he had suffered that martyrdom, they knew not what welcome to give him. This good host had two young daughters who presented to the Father their alms with so much humility and modesty, that the Father was greatly edified thereby. I suppose that they gave him each two or three sols,—it was possibly their entire treasure; but he had no need of their riches. An honest Merchant of Rennes, happening to be in that house,—not by chance, but by a providence which leads everything to its issue,—having learned the Father's history, offered him a horse, assuring him that he would account it a favor to escort him as far as the first of our houses. This offer, so courteous, was accepted with deep emotion at the goodness of God, and a sweet gratitude toward his benefactor.

Finally, on the fifth of January in the year 1644, in the morning, he was knocking at the door of [120] our College at Rennes. The porter seeing him in such plight, clad in garments so incongruous, did not