

to her fancy,—speaks to them as follows: “My nieces, you have just given an important promise to God; you have just renounced the Demon and renounced sin; you have promised to keep the Faith, [216] not for two Winters, but for all your life. Hold firm; if any one of your people urge you to give up prayer, be deaf; if they quarrel with you, be mute, say not a word to them: but speak to God, and say to him, ‘I will believe in thee all my life.’”

An Interpreter has related to us, that a Christian woman had spoken to him of her afflictions in these terms: “God gave me children, and has taken them from me; I have lost three of them this Winter, almost at the same time. If I had not the Faith deeply in my soul, I would believe, like some, that the new creed which we have embraced causes us to die; but I cannot suffer this thought in my heart. This is what I say to myself: ‘Those children are in Heaven; those little innocents have not offended God, and they are in Paradise. Thou hopest to go there; then be not troubled, for life is not long.’ That is what consoles me. There is still left to me a daughter, who was the tallest of all my children; she is sick to death, and I await only the hour of her departure. It is God who thus wills; he has given them to me, and he takes them from me. I will neither vex myself nor complain.” [217] The Interpreter who heard this discourse was the more affected, because that daughter was very comely, and well trained in the manner of these peoples. Finally, God took her as well as the others; and this good woman, instead of raising the loud cries of a mother so keenly afflicted, came to confess,—humbly asking permission to receive communion, which was granted