

how Barbarians who have no knowledge of our letters could have engraved those characters; and, while I was seeking the explanation of it in my own mind, I saw overhead, in a roll, these three words written, *Laudent nomen ejus*. At the same time, I received a great light in the depth of my soul, which caused me to see that rightly were they praising the name of the lamb, who in their distresses and tribulations were striving to imitate the gentleness of him who, like a lamb, had said no word to those who, having robbed him of his fleece, were leading him to death.

“This sight having given me courage, I enter the second gate, built of great stones, hewn in every fashion, which made a great portico or entrance, enriched with an admirable vault. Continuing my way, I perceived about the middle of this portico a guard-house, well filled with arms of every pattern, without seeing any soldier; I made them a deep obeisance, remembering that one owed them this respect. While I was saluting them, a sentinel, stationed toward the place whither I was proceeding, exclaimed, ‘Halt there.’ [92] Now—whether I had my face turned in another direction, or whether the beauty of the things which I beheld strongly occupied my mind—I neither saw nor heard anything. The sentinel repeats, the second time, crying more loudly, ‘Halt there;’ and I stop quite short. ‘How?’ said this soldier to me, ‘is that the way you obey the voice of him who is on guard before the royal Palace? Was it then necessary to call to you twice, “Halt there?” Come, be quick; appear before our Judge and our Captain.’ I heard these two words, ‘Judge’ and ‘Captain.’ ‘Enter,’ he said to me, ‘through this gate, in order to receive the punishment of your