

mighty; he set me back, [269] this Winter, to the point whence he had drawn me,—that is to say, within two fingers of death. Seeing myself in that extremity, I felt deep regret for my treachery. I asked his pardon, and protested that I would no longer be stubborn; he revived me for the third time. It is settled, and I intend to obey him. It is for this reason that you see me with you; I will not go away until my sins be washed in the blood of Jesus Christ.” He has so effectually knocked at the door that it has been opened to him; he has been made a Christian along with his mother, his brothers, and his sisters.

A Sorcerer, wishing to terrify a Christian, said to him, “I have learned from my Demon that next Winter thy family is to fall into a horrible calamity; that thy little son will soon die; that there is no more hunting for thee, and that thou art going to be miserable. Nevertheless, if thou wilt obey my words, I will avert this misfortune from over thy head. Give me the images that thou keepest, and a bottle of wine, and the Demon will do thee no harm.” The Christian, mocking at his dreams, answered him: “I belong to God; whether I live or whether I die, I am his. I have already given him [270] my children,—he may take them when he will; it is a happiness for me that they go before me into Paradise. I do not fear thy Demon.” It is true that his son fell ill, soon afterward; but, when some persons were urging him to obey the Sorcerer, he answered: “I will do nothing of the kind; let them carry my son to the Fathers, and let them pray to God for him,—that is my only recourse.” His wife brought the child from a distance of four full