

for, as soon as he was baptized, not only did he pardon that injury, but he promised withal to love, and to protect as his brother, the one who had offended him,—praying the Father to assure him of this, in his behalf.

A Christian woman, finding herself in the company of some Pagans, was jeered and mocked about her devotions. Her husband,—being unable, although a child of the Church, to endure such derision,—told her that she was too ardent, and that she must moderate her zeal, in order not to give occasion to those who had too large eyes, to have also too large a mouth. “I wish to believe,” she said, “not by half, but altogether; I will never belie a single point of the Faith which I have received from God. They may laugh, and mock, but in vain; nothing confounds me, for I am a Christian.” Her husband, much consoled, said to her, “I love thee the more for it; have good courage, and do not give up the path upon which thou hast entered.”

[274] This good soul, urged by her friends to eat meat on days forbidden to those who have any other reasonable food, answered that hunger gave her not so much pain as obedience to the orders of the Church gave her consolation. When one of our Fathers informed her of the intention of the Church regarding this commandment, she answered him: “I knew it well, but it seemed to me that Jesus said in my heart: ‘Hold firm; thou wilt not die for it, and wilt not even be inconvenienced by it.’” In fact, she was always in very good health, and is indefatigable in work.

A woman being in child-labor, and seeing herself in danger of death, had recourse to our Lord,—asking