

one, why do you oppose the instruction of those prisoners? And, if what we preach about Paradise and Hell be a lie, why do you refuse us the satisfaction of relating those fables, and of deceiving your enemies? And if you think [34] that God's word, which we carry, be really true, then embrace the Faith yourselves, and dread not for yourselves those Hell-fires that you desire for those poor wretches." Thereupon, he began to preach to the entire assembly, who listened to him. He spoke of Paradise, of Hell, and of the Resurrection, and outlined the principal mysteries of our Faith. Finally, seeing that all his hearers were won, he said to them: "My brothers, I see very well that the Faith is in the depth of your hearts,—that you merely put off professing it; but know that you irritate God by opposing the salvation of these souls, and that Hell will be your lot if you allow your hatred to be immortal. Burn their bodies, if you will, for they are your captives; but their souls are invisible, and are not under your control. You would be wrong to wish them any harm." After that, he addressed himself to the prisoners and asked them whether they understood those truths, and whether they desired Baptism. Their hearts were fully prepared; all remained silent, and Baptism was administered with such general acquiescence that one would have thought that the assembly was entirely Christian.

[35] On another occasion, the infidels had prejudiced the captives and had conveyed impressions to them respecting us and the Faith which inspired them only with horror. A Christian Captain heard of this, and begged us not to make our appearance at the assembly until he summoned us. He took