

shed upon the [89] Cross, we are assured that the Faith has not been planted in any region of the world except in the midst of crosses and sufferings. Thus these desolations console us; and in the midst of persecution, at the climax of the evils which attack us, and of the greatest misfortunes with which one can threaten us, we are all filled with joy, and our hearts tell us that God has never had a more tender love for us than that which he now has.

Moreover, it must not be supposed that all is lost. *Non est abbreviata manus Domini.* The Christians who are fugitives have not lost their souls with their goods; they bear in their hearts the true Faith, which makes of them a living Church. The Peoples which remain to be converted are of the domain of Jesus Christ, who gives us sufficient enlightenment to enable us reasonably to hope that we can make from them a people wholly Christian, notwithstanding the past losses and desolations which have preceded. It is true that the strongest of our hopes is in God alone; but it is the same in all affairs which are not of the jurisdiction of nature. Where would our merit and our faith be, if we did not journey [90] through these obscurities? where our confidence in God, if our support were altogether upon human agencies? He who wishes to see too clearly in his affairs, does not sufficiently abandon himself to the guidance of God; and it is no longer in God that he trusts, but in himself. We pray our Lord that he may never permit in us so great unfaithfulness in the management of the affairs which he has put in our hands,—which are his own, more than ours.