

filled and emptied at least ten or twelve times. It was then, too, that many of these good Neophytes gave in their account of the day, as those who had charge of each one detained them at the door for that purpose,—sometimes one, sometimes another, to learn, in a word, how often, throughout the day, they had thought upon God; in what they had been the most true to him; if they had offered to him their labor, their [24] hunger, their misery; if they had not committed some fault. Such questions were answered with a frankness that showed nothing of the barbarous, and — which is an infallible indication of the spirit of God — with the simplicity of a child. The night always came upon us sooner than we desired; nevertheless, it was welcomed by us with pleasure, for it alone afforded us the leisure for going back to God,—if, indeed, they can depart from him, who never speak but of him or act but for him, and who live in him, in the earnest expectation of never dying but for his sake.

Such were our employments in the midst of that barbarism become Christian. It was thus that God proceeded to prepare this people for Heaven, perceiving them to be near to their destruction. This we shall see in the Chapters which follow.