

preserved them with so much goodness? I thank him myself on behalf of other children, that, should their relatives forget them, God may receive honor and praise for the benefits which he dispenses to his creatures."

A Captain, a prominent man, asked to be instructed and baptized. The Father to whom he addressed himself, wishing to prove him, listened to him somewhat coldly, and said to him, "Come to me every day; and, if I am not at home, come back another time." He came at stated hours, as many as five or six times a day. There is nothing which so removes us from God as display and pride; humiliations are the touchstone of Faith, and of solid virtue. The Father instructed this Captain as if he had been instructing a child. At length, that man well understood that we wished to discover [137] whether he possessed a good and strong intention to embrace a Law which made profession of the Cross, of poverty, and of humility. He brought to the feet of the Father his riches, which consisted of some porcelain collars, and said to him: "My father, give all that to the poor, and know that I love the Faith more than all the riches of earth;" and then, baring his shoulders, "Cause me to be scourged right well for my offenses, and thou shalt know that I fear neither sufferings nor shame." His steadfastness, and a danger of death which befell him, caused Baptism to be granted him. As soon as he became a Christian, he exclaimed before his people: "Know that it has been from the depths of my heart that I have embraced the prayer; if you see that I ever go back, I give you full liberty to jeer and to mock at my inconstancy."