

In the fourth place, a Captain who was somewhat [145] given to this weakness affirmed, by a public declaration, that, if ever he were seen light-headed from drink, he would be the first to undergo all the rigor of the laws; and that, because of the bad example he had formerly given, he would punish himself by being publicly scourged, if any one of his people should commit that fault,—wishing to avenge upon his own person the sins of those who were under his charge.

Some time after, when a young man made his appearance half drunk, this Captain wished to make good his word. He happened to be at a meeting where were gathered together the greater number of his people, and he spoke to them as follows: “If you have any love for me, display it now; take vengeance upon my body for the sin of this one. If any one spare me, I shall regard him as a coward and a dastard, and as one who cares little for the Faith and prayer.” Upon that, he bared his shoulders, ordering both great and small to scourge him; the greater number, taking what he said literally, obeyed lustily, both with heart and hand. The French who were present, seeing they were striking him in earnest, were [146] moved, some even to tears, admiring his constancy, and the joy which he manifested in the sacrifice he was offering to God for the sin of his people.

He who had committed the offense, seeing this admirable spectacle, was astounded; he came forward, and addressed his Captain, who was a relative of his, in these terms: “My cousin, we have but one body, since we have the same blood in our veins. Thou hast borne half of the punishment due to my offense;