

temerity? Wast thou, perhaps, his accomplice? No, forsooth, since he was walking in the darkness, and knew not whither he went. The unhappy man thought to strike directly upon the head of a young Frenchman, and struck his own country with a mortal wound; the earth opened to receive the blood of the innocent, and has made a chasm to engulf us all, now that we are all guilty. Our enemies will rejoice in this death, and will celebrate a glorious triumph, on seeing that our arms destroy ourselves, and deal such telling blows in their favor." He continued in this strain a long time, and then added: "Brother, have pity on this country; thou alone canst give life to it. To thee it pertains to gather together these scattered bones; thou must close the mouth of this chasm which stands ready to engulf us; have pity on thy country, which we call thine, because we make thee the master of it. We are here like criminals, to receive condemnation, if thou choose to treat us without mercy; have pity on those who, accusing themselves, come humbly to ask thy pardon. Thou hast given stability to this country by establishing thy dwelling here; if thou go away, we shall be like uprooted straws, which serve only as sport for the winds. This Land is an unstable Island, and is likely to be submerged in the first storm; do thou establish it, and posterity will praise thee, and hold thine act in perpetual remembrance. At the first news of this death, we forsook everything; and [17 i.e., 19] we bring with us nothing but tears and repentance,—ready to execute, by way of reparation for the crime perpetrated, whatever thou shalt command us. Speak, therefore; what wilt thou have? Thine are our lives, and, much more, our goods; we