

but, nevertheless, with bodily agitation which betrayed the workings of her mind, torn by the conflicting efforts of grace and of nature. I began to have some slight hopes when, turning toward me in a fury, she seized my face with all her might. She would certainly have injured me seriously, had her strength been equal to her fury; but she was so weak that she could not hurt me as she desired. On account of her weakness, I allowed her to retain her hold of my face, and I continued my instruction, telling her that the interest I took in her soul compelled me not to quit her, whatever she might do. I was, however, obliged to leave her that time, even with the idea of not returning. I nevertheless went back on the following morning, more for the purpose of seeing whether she were dead than of speaking to her. I found her at the point of death, but she had not yet lost consciousness. 'What!' I said to her; 'thou hast but a moment to live; why wilt thou be lost forever, when thou canst yet be saved?'

"These few words softened her heart, which so many others had been unable to touch. She leaned toward me; she said the prayer that I prompted to her; she manifested sorrow for her past sins; she asked for baptism, to wash them away; and she received it only to be confirmed in grace by her death, which followed shortly afterward.

"I learned from the example of this sick woman that we should never give up any person, whatever may be his resistance, so long as any life or reason remains; my hope and my labor shall have no other limit than that set by God's mercy."