

booklet giving the wonderful apparitions of Our Lady of La Salette, and also saw the picture of our Blessed Mother in the front part of the little volume. He now began to use most abusive language, saying that these were nothing but intolerable inventions of priests and monks for the purpose of leading ignorant people about by the nose. What apparitions? what Mother of God? all that is fiction, nothing but invention, etc. Then he added a number of curses and blasphemous remarks about the Blessed Virgin, and finally disgusted, threw the book on the floor. But in the same instant he dropped down as though struck by lightning; he grew pale and lay there motionless. He was taken to be dead.

The book-dealer, the clerk and other persons who happened to be present were so overcome with fright, that they did not dare touch him. A number of other people came into the store however, not any of them were willing to touch him. They all unanimously declared, "This is a punishment of the Divine Justice!"

After a time the young man was seen to move, and it appeared as though he was trying to extricate himself from strong chains. But all in vain. At last he drew a deep breath, now he seems to have become free: he opened his eyes, looks about, and rises.

However no sooner was he on his feet, than he at once kneels down, folds his hands and amid a torrent of tears begs pardon of all who are present, for the great scandal he had given by his blasphemies. Then he continues, listen to what I say! At the very moment when I uttered such blasphemy, I was struck by the hand of the Just God: I was already overpowered by the evil spirits who drew me down into hell; already I saw the abyss of hell open under me, but the Mother of God herself, the most merciful Virgin Mary, appeared to me in the same form as she is pictured in that little book, with the same robe, with that very crown upon her brow, with that cross upon her breast. I saw her, as with infinite goodness and mercy she snatched me from the hands of the devils, and then I again became conscious. Oh, the Mother of God has rescued me from hell! I entreat you all to thank her for me and to pray to her that I may