

Father La Quintinye does not fail to give illustrations of the practical application of these principles. Some of our men declare, he says, that they have met with women who, in committing fornication, do not sin, for they do not think that they sin. Our authors speak of what they call *haarsträubend* examples. One is of a confessor who declares that when he found it impossible to persuade a certain nobleman that it was sinful to do as he intended, namely, to give false evidence in an approaching trial in order to save a friend from loss, he gave him absolution. The next cannot go in English—*Alii in confessionibus audiendis invenisse se quosdam jam ætate grandiores qui non peccabant coeundo cum pecore*. Again he declares that he had heard a certain Father Confessor, in presence of the rector of his own college, and his consulters, boldly assert that a mother, in a given case, had not sinned, seeing that she firmly believed it no sin to act as she did. *Audacter affirmavit fœminam qui sæpius sciens et volens rem habuerat cum filio suo in hoc non peccasse quia (inquiebat supradictus Pater) illa fœmina putabat firmiter non esse peccatum matrem cum filio Commisceri* (vol. ii. p. 4). The position of this "benevolent" Father, viz., that in a case so heinous the woman was without sin, naturally resulted from other positions which La Quintinye says were maintained in presence of the rector and his consulters, none but himself (La Quintinye) objecting. These positions are, "In order that anyone here and now shall sin, it is necessary that here and now he shall know and deem that he sins." And again: "Whoever firmly, that is without doubting or hesitating, reckons that here and now, in doing what he does, he is not acting wrongly, does not here and now blamably sin before God, nor does he merit a penalty for such a work, whatever he may do." As the essence of this doctrine he cites another position taken up by the same Father P. N.—Theologians of great name teach this or that, therefore this or that is true, or certainly probable. This proposition (affirms the said P. N.) is a principle or axiom. These, cries La Quintinye, are the doctrines which I lately brought to the notice of our Provincial; but, so far from rebuking them, he wondered that I did not share them.