

his finger in water, and cool my tongue ; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said : Son, remember that thou in thy life time receivedst thy good things."

The sick man was very attentive ; they were new things to him ; he listened seriously and interestedly to this solemn portion of the word of God.

"You see," said the visitor, "that this rich man left the world as he had lived, that is to say without conversion and without repentance, in a word without God. And where did he fall ? The word of God informs us : into torment, far from happiness, far from God and for *eternity*."

This word *eternity*, upon which man hardly puts his wandering thoughts for a moment, touched like a flash the conscience of the invalid. From that moment this word sounded unceasingly in his ears, and pursued him every where without intermission.

"Eternity, eternity, what wilt thou be for me ?" he would say. "I am like the man in the parable ; for I also have forgotten God during my life, have neglected the salvation of my soul, and have walked in the broad way. I am going, I know assuredly, to the same place with him, and for eternity !"

These solemn truths had the effect of deepening his distress still more, but this time it was a sorrow according to God which led to salvation. He remained for some time under this necessary exercise during which the young man continued to visit him, but there was another who assuredly never forgot him, it was He who had begun a good work in his soul. He would also finish it.