

to me.» The younger will, therefore, *play* the sinner's part, he will allow himself to be carried away by his fickle temper, by his ardent passions, by the vortex of youth! And the father's heart must be broken by the shameful errings of the boy upon whom he had incessantly lavished his favors, in whom he had placed his future hopes! Alas! yes. And, nevertheless, in asking for his part of the inheritance, the boy could not forget his parent's love, he could not banish from his heart that natural sentiment binding him to the author of his days. He still called him by the fond name of « *Father.* »

« *And he divided unto them his substance.* » God showers His gifts upon man. Not satisfied with having given him a body, He endowed him with reason whose light might guide him on the path of virtue to receive after life the reward thereof.— But soon forgetting his father's bounty and the many happy days spent in his company, the only thought of the Prodigal, the sinner, is to lavish upon his passions the rich patrimony given to him by Providence. How frequently does one not hear the thoughtless words · « No more restraint for me. The hour is come for me to walk alone through life's pleasures. I must be free and enjoy youth!»

*And not many days after, the younger son gathering all together, went abroad into a far distant country, and there wasted his substance living riotously.*» Ah! how happy the sinner had once been in his father's home! How pure, how rich and beautiful his soul when it had been purified in the waters of Baptism! How he once loved to invoke the Child Jesus, the Infant Jesus of his infancy, the Boy-Christ of his boyhood! Unhappy change! The years of childhood have gone by and with them have disappeared the loved simplicity and innocence of early days. The world with its pleasures entices him on. Something burns, consumes his existence. Why does he appear so restless, so anxious? His slumbering passions have awakened. Their siren voices have thrown him into delirium. Oh! why does he not pray to escape destruction? Why does he not invoke Jesus, the friend of his infancy?... His childhood is passed; he thinks himself strong, he sees no need of seeking refuge in the arms of his former friend, he no longer wants the