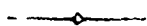


was occasionally invited by promises and gifts, by some of his promoted companions and fellow-students, to come to Paris. But by the advice of certain devout persons, he was recalled from this intention, and was shown, that he should not put himself in peril, by the desire of greater learning.

Meanwhile, it happened that two brothers, his companions, of strong constitution and happy wit, transferred themselves from the school of Daventry to Paris: but they had been there but for a very short while, when both died in one day. Moreover, some other students, after much expense and daily labours, when they were about to shine forth in fame and knowledge, were suddenly called out of this life; which coming to the ears of the above-named youth, he was much struck, for they were his fellow-students; and in a short time bidding farewell to scholastic honours, he enrolled himself as a disciple of Christ among the regulars.



OF A CERTAIN PRIEST WHO WAS TEMPTED, AND AFTERWARDS RETURNED TO GOD.

There was once amongst us a certain priest, Alardus by name, who desired to renounce the world, and to take the habit of a canon-regular; but before he received the habit, the tempter was present with him, recalling to his memory, the former delights of the world, which he had long used prodigally. And he began to be exceedingly sad, for that he

had left his relations and friends, and was now, as it were, an exile from his native country, to live a desolate life.

As soon as this sadness had sprung up there succeeded other grievances, and these not few, like loud claps of thunder. For the malignant enemy struck him with the weariness of the place, and the difficulty of the rule, and suggested to him how well he might have lived with his friends in his own parts, and how much good he might have done to them. Now these are the darts of the deceitful serpent, with which he often strives to wound the hearts of the novices, to make them turn back from their holy purpose. But by the mercy of God, while this priest was standing in the very brunt of the conflict, the light of heavenly consolation shone in upon him, and dissipated all the mist of worldly sorrow.

Wherefore, by the spirit of God, having been re-inflamed and comforted against the wiles of the devil, he began to think within himself, for what he had come, and weighing with good judgment the purpose now aimed at, he raised himself with a manly resolution, saying: See how, by the providence of God, of thy own free-will, and as a suppliant, thou has entered into this place for the grace of amendment, and now thou hast found for thy necessities, much more than thou hast left behind. For Christ's sake thou hast put behind thee a few friends; but now thou hast received many more spiritual in the stead of carnal brethren, joined to thee by greater charity. All things, according to the use of this monastery, are thine, and are divided to thee in charity. Some labour for thee, some pray for thee, some read, others write for thee; no one here is idle; no one possesseth anything of his own,—all things are held in common. Behold thou hast so many services done thee, as there are clostral offices throughout the whole family.