

There is now in the prison a young slave, scarcely 18 years of age, who has been bastinadoed three times within the last eight days for saying his prayers, and, despite of the chastisement, he has just now been discovered repeating them again." Anne asked him to show her the slave; and from the window she desried a young man, couched on a little straw, with his hands joined and his eyes raised to Heaven, and repeating something. "I would venture to say," said the Caito, "that he is still praying; if I had such a slave, I would cause him to be impaled on the spot."

After saying this he went out, and Anne related to her mother what she had witnessed. Both were of opinion that they would confide in a person so faithful to his God. The same day Anne perceiving him alone, opened the window and made signs for him to approach, and take up some pieces of money which she threw down; the poor creature trailed himself along, not being able to stand because of the bastinado, and taking the gold prostrated himself to thank her. The window was then closed, and he retired.

The following day, at a favorable hour, Anne opened the window, and having given the signal, threw down a larger sum of money, with a letter to the following effect:—"Christian, the constancy you have manifested in confessing Jesus Christ, convinces us that you will not betray our secret. We are two Christians, anxious to escape from this infidel land; if you have a fellow-slave in whom you could confide to assist you in delivering us, we shall furnish you both with money sufficient for your ransom." On reading these lines, the slave was almost beside himself with joy; he showed it to two Neapolitans who had been sold with him,

and all in concert blessed the Lord for the prospect of redemption held out to them, while they prepared their answer.

Some days after the signal was again given, and Anne having slipped down a cord, the slave fastened to it a paper, on which was written the following lines, while he gathered up her usual donation:—"May God preserve in you the good sentiments he has inspired, and reward your benevolence towards me.—I am like you anxious to be freed from captivity, not only because I suffer so much, but to be instructed in my holy religion; for since I was five years old, I have been in the hands of the Mahometans. I am a Christian nevertheless, though I have not got a single prayer, except one to the blessed Virgin, which my mother taught me in my infancy. I say it very often; it was that which caused me to be punished so cruelly, but I still continue to repeat it; the holy Virgin has commanded me to do so. I often see her in sleep; she promises I shall be soon delivered. I do think you are the means by which she intends to procure my enlargement. I am ready to execute your will, and I can pledge myself that two Neapolitans, my fellow-slaves, will be ready to sacrifice their lives to be useful to you."

This reply, while it supported the hopes of Angelique and Anne, renewed the sorrows of the former. This pious and sensible woman thus thought within herself: this young man was captured at the age of five years, my son had just reached that term when torn from my arms!! Perhaps this is he, said Anne. God is omnipotent, my child, replied Angelique; he has conducted me to you: he can restore me even both my sons—but who knows if this may be either of them?—how many