

during winter, how to preserve fruit, and a thousand other points of practical agriculture, which might one day prove to them of great service. The union of these virtuous spouses were blessed by God with several children. The oldest of the daughters whose name was Catharine, bore a striking resemblance to the mother; Sophia, the second daughter, was a child of great docility and sweetness of temper; then came Frederic, a sprightly and intelligent little boy; at a later period they had other children.

Theresa was too well acquainted with the duties of a Christian mother to be neglectful of the education of her children. She tried early to inspire them, above all, with the fear and love of God, and with a ready and prompt obedience to parental authority. Brought up under an affectionate vigilance which noted the peculiarities of their disposition, and was skilful to encourage traits that were good, and correct those which were bad, these children soon became the consolation and joy of their parents, and by their docility fully compensated for the expense and trouble which they caused. They were early formed and inured to labour, and, at an early age, when many other children are still grovelling in ignorance, they were already well instructed. One day, during a beautiful spring-morning, Theresa was seated on a bench under an apple tree; her husband was engaged in his room reading, and her children, sporting and romping on the grass, came now and again to ask her different questions. The good mother beholding all so happy around her felt her bosom glow with a rapture, which none but a virtuous mother, with children who correspond with her endeavors, can ever know and yielding to the impulse of her feeling, told Catharine to bring her the book which contained those beautiful caecticles recommended by the venerable curate, and which were sung at the beginning and termination of the catechism. Catharine obeyed, and the mother surrounded by the grateful children began to sing :

" Oh God ! who from thy beaming throne,
Does wide creation sway,
Sovereign supreme ! by thee alone
We live or pass away.
Life's morn shines brightly o'er me now,
I feel its earliest breath ;
I tender thee my heart's first vow—
A vow to love till death."

When the first couplet was ended, Hermann, who had glided into the garden with his guitar surprised the singers, and accompanied them. Great was the pleasure of the children when they heard they heard the melodious sounds of this instrument they ran to seek their father and entreated him to come and take a seat with them. The father

yielded to their wishes and after a short prelude, he took up the tonic, and they continued the canticle :—

" Oh Lord ! with eye propitious, deign
To guard my fragile strife,
And shield my breast from grief and pain,
From bitterness of spite ;
But chief I pray, that on the flood
Of life's dark, troubled sea,
No wrecks of guilt, no stains of blood,
Claim vengeance, Lord, from thee.

My many toils and anxious care,
Not blessed by thee, are vain ;
The ploughman idly guides the share,
If heaven denies its rain :
Their lives, the Saints, to thee resigned,
Convinced thou wouldst provide ;
Oh ! might I know their peace of mind !
And die as they have died !

And Virgin, queen of the starry sphere,
Bring aid to thy trusting child ;
For tempests are raging madly here,
And waters are dashing wild ;
And when death's spectre forms appear
Before my fading eye ;
Be thou, oh ! Mary, mother, near
To teach thy child to die."

The children were in ecstasies of pleasure with this singing beneath the shades of the apple-tree which was then in bloom, and amid whose branches the birds were fluttering and chirping, as if desirous to take part in the concert. "Never," they exclaimed, "have we passed a more delightful morning."

They would be glad every day to assemble thus and sing the praises of the Creator. Hermann profited by this enthusiasm to say to them, "If this little concert transports you with such joy, and fills your soul with so much rapture, a concert undoubtedly very innocent but also very imperfect, what will you feel when one day you shall find yourselves in heaven, before the throne of God, and when you shall hear the angels upon their harps chaunting the greatness and love of their divine Master? What will you feel when united to the choirs of the blessed, you shall assist at those canticles of joy, which resound through the heavenly Sion? If the holy book says many things to stimulate our curiosity concerning that bright abode, it also teaches us that to get there we must make constant efforts, and lead a Christian life. Therefore, if you wish one day, to possess the happiness which the elect enjoy, you must practise virtue, avoid sin, flee from evil, constantly invoke the assistance, and use your best endeavors to become worthy of his favors. Do not then forget, my little friends, that heaven will be opened only to