

claimed, "There is not in the world so guilty a sinner as I am! If it is true that the wicked go to hell and that heaven is reserved for the good, my place will not be uncertain; hell awaits me; for if ever a man deserved eternal perdition, it is surely me."

From that time there was no rest, this terrible thought pursued and tortured him night and day. How could he get rid of it? In plunging more deeply into a life of sin? But vice had lost all its attraction for him. Oh! if he could but hope that there was any possibility of salvation for him.

It came to his mind that he had heard of monks, who had found the way of expiation of sins through meritorious works of penance, prayers, and bodily punishment. This thought gave him courage; he felt that no labour or fleshly mortification would be too great, if thereby, he could obtain the slightest hope of pardon. So he decided to become a monk. He made enquiries everywhere for the monastery which had the severest rules, and the hardest penances, and if at the end of the earth, he would go there and pass the remainder of his days in prayers and penances. He heard at length, that the object of his search was a Trappist monastery, about fifteen hundred miles from his home. Too poor to undertake the necessary expenses of such a journey, he resolved to make it on foot and to beg his way; and this even seemed a beginning of his penance, and a step gained on the way to heaven.

The journey was long and painful, under a burning sun, and through an unknown country. Exhausted,