

Mr. Smith was considerably non-plussed. As he had no answer to this argument he replied : " My poor Baptiste, you can not help it if you are ignorant. These things are too deep for discussion with a man like yourself who has never been taught the real truths of religion. It would be a waste of time. I assure you, for one thing, that you are throwing money away when you have Masses said. Tell me, have you ever obtained one favor thereby ? "

" And, so you do not believe in the virtue of prayer, monsieur ? I thought all Christians did. I see that you are disposed to be prejudiced no matter what I say. If I told you I had obtained graces and favors you would not believe me. So it is not worth while to discuss the subject any longer, for we can never come to an understanding, and you are only wasting time in trying to change my opinions. I place much more confidence in M. le Cure than I do in you, Monsieur. Besides, just now I have no time to argue further, for I see a great cloud on the side of Cape-a-l'Aigle, which betokens a severe storm. Excuse me, Monsieur."

Mr. Smith was not a brave man ; he became alarmed. The cloud was certainly there, and growing larger every moment. The wind began to blow with great violence, and the rain to fall in torrents. The captain of the " Marie-Alice " was put to it to keep his vessel in her course.

" Baptiste, do you think there is any danger ? " inquired his passenger, from under the shelter of the heavy oilskins which the boatman had thrown him for protection from the storm.

" There is always danger in a gale like this," answered the mariner between his teeth.

" But, is it imminent ? Is your boat fit to weather this tempest ? "

" I hope so, Monsieur," was the response ; " I will do my best."

The waves rose higher, the winds waxed fiercer, the brave little bark strained every fibre against the fearful odds that threatened to engulf her. Smith shrunk farther and farther into the shelter of the water-proofs. We know not whether he prayed ; at any rate he was silent. At last, the fury of the storm began to abate, the waters