

under such circumstances, it must certainly be regarded as a document of common interest:—

"Patientia vobis necessaria est. Yes, in verity, my dear mother, it is very necessary for us this patience: I have felt it so at all moments. I confess to you that I am mortified at not being able to go to our dear Chaillot. I had hoped it till now, but my illness has returned since three o'clock, and I have lost all hope. There is not, however, any thing very violent in my sickness; it has been trifling, but I believe that in two or three days I shall be out of the turmoil, if it please God, and if not, I hope that he will give me good patience. I am very weak and worn down. I leave the rest to lady —, embracing you with all my heart. A thousand regards to our dear mother and our poor sisters, above all to C. Ang——"¹

Angelique,² she would have written, but the failing hand has left the name of that much-loved friend unfinished. About six o'clock on Friday evening, the 6th of May, Mary Beatrice, finding herself grow worse, desired to receive the last sacraments of her church, which, after she had prepared herself, were administered to her by the curé of St. Germain. As it was impossible for her to enjoy the consolation of taking a last farewell of her son, she resigned herself to that deprivation, as she had done to all her other trials, with much submission to the will of God, contenting herself with praying for him long and fervently. She desired, she said, to ask pardon, in the most humble manner, of all those to whom she had given cause of offence, or by any means injured; and declared she most heartily pardoned and forgave all who had in any manner injured or offended her. She then took leave of all her faithful friends and attendants, thanking them for their fidelity and services, and recommended herself to their prayers, and those of all present, desiring "that they would pray for her, and for the king her son, (for so she called him,) that he might serve God faithfully all his life." This she repeated twice, raising her voice as high as she could; and for fear she

¹ Translated from the original French.

² Catharine Angelique de Mesme is the *religieuse* indicated; her other friend, Claire Angelique de Beauvais, had already paid the debt of nature. Mary Beatrice, in one of her preceding letters, says, "I shall never cease to lament the loss of my dear Claire Angelique." A packet of letters from the exiled queen to that *religieuse*, preserved in the Chaillot collection, is thus endorsed: "Ces lettres de la Reine ont été écrites à sa très honorable mère, Claire Angelique de Beauvais, pendant son dernier Triumal, fini à cette Ascension, 1709."

³ Ibid.