

exercise, amusement, and a regular life, (are necessary for the purpose 29.) You cannot think well (whilst your health is affected 30; when the body is debilitated 31, the mind is without vigour. Adieu! write to me more frequently, and in a style less gloomy.

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II.

THE CONVERT.

AN EASTERN TALE:

Divine mercy 1 had brought a vicious man into a society of sages, whose morals were holy and pure. He was affected by their virtues; it was not long 2 before 3 he imitated them and lost his old habits: he became just, sober, patient, laborious and benevolent. His deeds nobody could deny, but they were attributed 4 to odious motives. They praised his good actions, without loving his person: they would always judge him by what he had been, not by what he had become. This injustice filled him with grief; he shed tears in the bosom of an ancient sage, more just and more humane than the others. "O my son," said the old man to him, "thou art better than thy reputation; be thankful to God for it. Happy the man who can say: my enemies and my rivals censured in me vices of which I am not guilty. What matters 5 it, if thou art good, that men persecute thee as wicked?—Hast thou not, to comfort thee, the two best witnesses of thy actions, God and thy conscience?"

SAINT-LAMBERT.

Mr. de Montausier has written a letter to Monseigneur upon the taking of Philipsbourg, which very much pleases me. "Monseigneur, I do not compliment you on the capture of Philipsbourg; you had a good army, bombs, canon, and Vauban; neither shall I compliment you upon your valour; for that is an hereditary virtue in your family, But I rejoice that you are liberal, generous, humane, and that you know how to recompense the services of those who behave well: it is for this that I congratulate you."

SÉVIGNÉ.

un grand point de gagné. 29. Il y faut de. 30. Tant que vous se porter mal. 31. *Debilitated*, dans l'abattement.

1. Miséricorde. 2. Ne pas tarder. 3. A inf. 4. On donner des motifs. 5. Importer.