

companions ; the best *reasons* which I alleged, seemed to excite impatience, and make them feel more poignantly their wretched state. As the mildness by which I had hoped to dissuade them from their course had failed, I assumed a tone which my character authorized ; I told them, with a boldness at which they were surprised, that "God was doubtless irritated against us ; that he measured the evils which he sent us, by the crimes we had previously committed ; that these crimes were doubtless enormous, as the punishment had been so rigorous, and that the greatest of all was our despair, which, unless speedily followed by repentance, would become irremissible. How do you know, my brethren, but that you are at the close of your penance ? The time of the greatest sufferings, is that of the greatest mercy ; do not become unworthy of it by your murmurs ; the first duty of a Christian is to submit blindly to the orders of his Creator ; and you, rebel hearts, would you resist him ? Would you lose in an instant, the fruit of the evils which God sends you, only to render you worthy of the good things which he reserves for his children ? Would you become homicides, and, to escape transient pain, not fear to rush into torments which have no bounds, but eternity ? Follow your guilty resolve, accomplish your horrible design, I have done my duty ; it is your business to think that you are then lost forever. Yet I hope, I added, that among you, there will be some at least so attached to the law of their God, as to regard my remonstrance, and that they will join me in offering him their *pains*, and asking strength to bear them."

When I had finished, I wished to retire, but all