

He went still further, and feared himself the victim of delusion. "I am deceived," he said. "The serpent has deceived me, *serpens deceptit*. Lord, send him whom Thou hast chosen. I am not worthy." This was the moment for which Almighty God was waiting. He changed the decision of Père Eymard's Superior, who now ordered him to Paris, there to make a Retreat under the direction of a worthy ecclesiastic. And so he started for Paris, and on May 1st took up his stay with a Community of priests of whom he knew nothing, not even their name. On that same day he wrote: "I know neither the name nor the object of this Congregation. It appears to me to be a Trappist convent. But there is a tabernacle, and that is enough for me." He tells us himself of the state of his soul and the object he had in view in making the Retreat;

"I want to come to some definite decision about an idea which has preoccupied me for several years giving me anxiety and mental suffering. As it is not only an attraction of the heart but something that touches my conscience as well, I want to be enlightened by consulting a stranger. I am resolved to submit to his decision, whatever it may be. I shall pray and regain my peace of soul before consulting any one. I shall put aside all my own ideas and desires, all that might otherwise influence a decision in accordance with my plans. If God, in His infinite goodness, says to me, 'Go on, mount this flaming Calvary,' by His grace and my own ardent desire to love Him I shall be ready to make the sacrifice. If, on the contrary, on account of my unworthiness, the good God commands me to return to Lyons. I shall do so at once, with no other regret than that of not being found sufficiently holy to serve more perfectly and more directly the great King of Love, our good Jesus.

The trial lasted till the 13th of May, and it appeared as if it were likely to become the tomb of his hopes. But Our Lord soon brought about their resurrection. He did not allow his servant to remain there forever.

Let us hear Père Eymard himself recounting that unexpected resurrection: "After twelve days of prayer,