

and to-day I have got a little more, but it will take a long time to get the full amount, and if in the meantime I should die, what would become of my poor soul."

All this was said with an air so serious, and a sincerity so evident, that I felt the deepest desire to speak to him of the free salvation the gospel makes known to us.

My friend, I said to him, I am but a young man, yet I have reached an order much higher than those you have mentioned.

"Really sir! And what order is it? I have never heard of an order higher than those I have mentioned."

It is the order of Jesus Christ, I said to him.

"No one has ever told me of that order sir. May God Almighty bless you! Tell me how much you have had to pay to enter it."

Not a penny.

"Not a penny! repeated the beggar, overwhelmed with astonishment. But what penance have you had to do?"

None.

"What had you then to do?"

Like you, I have confessed my sins to One who told me to look to the Victim who has suffered for them. He told me that if I would do so, all my sins would be pardoned through the love of Him who was nailed to the cross.

"I believe I understand what you are saying,"