

Heaven in the anguish of her heart: "Oh, my God! can it be possible that I am doomed to work out my salvation in the midst of so many dangers! My father now wishes me to attend the opera, the chase, and the masquerade, and, during the hours I shall spend there, I must forget thee, O my good God, who didst think of me from all eternity! No, I cannot forsake thy presence to enjoy that of man, I cannot attend these masquerades during the carnival, I cannot appear at the chase and the opera during Lent, and above all, I cannot endure these visits which papa wishes me to receive!" . . . Then, after some moments of deep reflection, she exclaimed, "Yes, I will go to the Abbey, and beg of them to admit me for a few days, to perform the spiritual exercises at the beginning of Lent; once I am within the gates, I will try to stay there!",