

spirators were ridiculing the sermon, and wondering if he would behave as he had advised others to do, he suddenly appeared among them.

"Here am I, my friends!" he said with perfect calmness. "You are wishing to do me some harm. Is it not better that I should thus give myself up to you, than that you should be guilty of the meanness of lying in wait to take me?" Awed by his dignity and piety, they acknowledged their evil designs, and entreated his pardon. He freely forgave them, and they were in future his friends.

He showed the same moral courage when a boy. In the streets of Strasburg he once saw an unfeeling officer abusing a sick beggar. Going boldly up between them he reprov'd the tyrannical man, who being very angry, would have seized him; but the neighbors who loved the child gathering round, protected him, and rescued the beggar.

Afterwards, passing in a narrow and lonely way, he saw the same officer approaching him. "Now, thought the boy, perhaps he will punish me. Shall I attempt to escape? No, I did my duty to the poor man. God is with me. Why should I fear?" The officer who had so lately threatened him, passed by and did him no harm. True piety was the foundation of his courage.

The same holy principle led him to persevere in improving the condition and character of his poor parishioners. He found the roads among them so exceedingly bad, that intercourse between the hamlets was both difficult and dangerous. He induced them to break rocks and to build a wall of considerable length on one side of the mountain road, to keep the earth and stones from being washed into the vale below.

He told them they must build a bridge over a river they had always been accustomed to ford. "How can these things be done?" they exclaimed. "Come and see," said Oberlin. Taking a pick-axe and other implements, he set them an example of their use. When they beheld him selecting the most difficult work for himself, they willingly exerted themselves, and the industry which he taught them was a new bond of affection.

Soon a neat bridge was constructed, and a good road opened from Waldbach to Strasburg, which was also extended to each of the five hamlets, or little villages, where he ministered. The force of his religious instructions was not impaired by his efforts to make them