

because it was I who robbed you' 'Robbed, robbed!' I exclaimed: 'what could you possibly have taken from a fellow who had not a centime to help himself with?' 'Ah! you had a treasure, and the treasure of all treasures; and here it is;' saying which, he took out from a drawer a book, which from its binding I at once recognized as the Bible which I bought from you. 'Ah! for such a theft,' said I, laughing 'you will never be sent to the galleys; and, moreover, the book was well nigh torn in pieces.' 'That is true enough, but the portion which escaped destruction has been sufficient to lead me to that repentance which is not repented of; it has sufficed to change my heart.' 'Indeed! indeed! But are you really speaking seriously?' 'Most seriously, and never more so; and it is quite manifest to me that God, in His love, has worked a real miracle on my behalf. One day on entering your room, and not finding you there, I was looking about, when my eyes fell on your book, which was lying on the table. I opened it, intending to read it whilst awaiting your return; but seeing that it was so very much torn, I concluded that it must be a book of very little value. I however, began looking into it, and my eyes fell upon this passage—"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Without troubling myself as to what might be the meaning of this verse, it made a deep impression on me. It is quite true that for some time previously I had become dissatisfied with myself, and with every one else; and this dissatisfaction haunted me wherever I was, or whatever I was doing. I felt, in spite of myself, that the life I was leading, could not make me happy, and that, cost what it might, I must make some change. However, my bad habits again got the upper hand with me; but in the end I could not but feel that the passage had struck home. I wished to know more about the book, and fearing lest you should refuse to lend it to me, I took possession of it, and went away without further waiting for you. On my return to my own room, I devoured—yes, that is right word—all the pages which had been left untorn; and the more I read, the more was I led to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Saviour of my soul. It was written, "Ask and ye shall receive," and in another place, "Whatsoever ye ask the