

‘ this. He took, upon occasion, an iron girdle full  
‘ of points, and put it round about his naked flesh,  
‘ and when any vain thought came into his mind, or  
‘ he took pleasure in the place where he was, or any  
‘ such like thing happened, he gave himself some  
‘ blows with his elbow, to redouble the violence of  
‘ the prickings ; and so put himself in mind of his  
‘ duty (40).’ He had always in his thoughts *these*  
*two great maxims, of renouncing all pleasure, and all*  
*superfluity ; and he practised them in the worst of his*  
*illness, with a continual watchfulness over his senses, re-*  
*fusing them absolutely every thing that was agreeable to*  
*them : and when necessity constrained him to do something*  
*which might give him any satisfaction, he had a wonder-*  
*ful art of diverting his mind from it, that it might have*  
*no share in it. As for instance, his continual sickness*  
*obliging him to feed delicately, he took great care not relish*  
*what he eat (41). He had no violent affection for*  
*those he loved (42), and advised others not to suffer*  
*any body to love them in a very high degree ; that this*  
*was a fault which they did not enough consider, because*  
*the greatness of it was not sufficiently apprehended, since by*  
*entertaining and cherishing such an ardent affection, a man*  
*possesses a heart which belongs only to G O D ; and that*  
*this is to rob him of the thing which in the whole world*  
*is most dear to him (43). He found fault with some dis-*  
*courses of his sister, which she thought very innocent.*  
*If I said sometimes, (says she (44), upon occasion, that I had*  
*seen a beautiful woman, he was angry, and would tell me,*  
*that I must not talk so before footmen, and young people,*  
*because I did not know what thoughts I might excite in*  
*their minds thereby. He had so much humility, that the*  
*curate of St Stephen du Mont, who saw him in all his*  
*last sickness, very frequently said, He is a child, he is*  
*humble, he submits like a little child (45). By the same*  
*virtue he allowed a perfect freedom of telling him of his*  
*faults, and yielded to the advices which were given*  
*him without resistance (46). Having embraced a kind*  
*of life, abstracted from the world, at the age of thirty*  
*years, he governed himself by this maxim, of renouncing*  
*all pleasures and superfluities, and this he practised during*  
*the remainder of his life. To succeed in this design, he be-*