wife what he had done, to wit, that he had taken a
couple of prisoners, and cast them into his dungeon
for trespassing on his grounds. Then he asked her also
what he had best to do further to them. So she asked
him what they were, whence they came, and whither
they were bound, and he told her. Then she counsel-
led him, that when he arose in the morning he should
beat them without mercy. So when he arose, he get-
teth him a grievous crabtree cudgel, and goes down into
the dungeon to them, and there first falls to rating of
them as if they were dogs, although they never gave
him a word of distaste. Then he falls upon them, and
beat them fearfully, in such sort that they were not able
to help themselves, or to turn them upon the floor.
This done, he withdraws and leaves them there to con-
dole their misery, and to mourn under their distress:
so all that day they spent their time in nothing but
sighs and bitter lamentations. The next night, she,
talking with her husband further about them, and
understanding that they were yet alive, did advise him
to counsel them to make away with themselves. So
when morning was come, he goes to them in a surly
manner, as before, and perceiving them to be very sore
with the stripes that he had given them the day before,
he told them, that since they were never like to come
out of that place, their only way would be forthwith to
make an end of themselves, either with knife, halter, or
poison: for why, said he, should you choose to live,
seeing it is attended with so much bitterness? But
they desired him to let them go. With that he looked
ugly upon them, and rushing to them, had doubtless
made an end of them himself, but that he fell into one
of his fits (for he sometimes, in sunshiny weather, fell
into fits), and lost for a time the use of his hands;
wherefore he withdrew, and left them as before to con-
sider what to do. Then did the prisoners consult be-
tween themselves, whether it was best to take his
counsel or no; and thus they began to discourse:—

Chr. Brother, said Christian, what shall we do? The