

REPARATION.

The Chief Priests of the Jews said to Pilate : Write not the King of the Jews, but that He said "I am the King of the Jews." Calvary being a place very much frequented by the Jews, many could read the title placed above Jesus' head. This was for them a signal favor from God. How did they profit by it ? How did they read this divine inscription ?

Doubtless, a certain number, like Mary, St John, the holy women, and some faithful disciples, read it more with the eyes of faith than with the bodily eye. Mary, in particular, penetrated its sense. "Jesus" and "Nazareth"—what wells of sorrow these two words opened in her soul ! Jesus at Nazareth ! Jesus on Calvary ! What a frightful change ! The Saviour's friends lovingly saluted this inscription. Jesus had reigned as King in their heart for a long time, and they have but one desire, and that is that He should become the King of all hearts.

But many others read this inscription out of pure curiosity, without giving it a thought, without trying to understand it or asking themselves whether the Crucified was really the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah !

The High Priests also read the inscription. At the sight of that august and sacred title, which revealed the quality of the Messiah foretold by the Prophets and expected by Israel, they are filled with fury and rage. They had wished to have Him condemned as a malefactor, and behold, by a solemn declaration the Roman Judge authorized all the nations of the world to believe that *Jesus of Nazareth* is no other than the King of the Jews ; that is, according to the well-known sense of the word, the object of all the promises they have received, Him whom they were to expect as the Messiah ! Will not the memory of such a fact, in passing down to posterity, cover them with unending infamy ? It was for this reason that they ran immediately to Pilate's palace, demanding a change in the formula of the title. "*Write not King of the Jews, but that He said, "I am the King of the Jews."*" There must be misunderstanding. Jesus is not, they said, King of the Jews, but an ambitious imposter who wished to pass for such. Those savage beasts, thirsting for blood, pursued with their hatred the