



SUBJECT OF ADORATION

An Hour of Adoration before the
Blessed Sacrament.

The Flagellation of Our Lord.

1. — The Pain of the Flagellation.

Adore Jesus, the meek, the innocent, the most sweet Jesus of the Holy Eucharist, in the court of the scourging.

Pilate has delivered Him "to their will." Their will is the ferocious caprice of a frenzied mob aroused to sanguinary fury. They drag Him into the prætorium, and despoil Him of His garments. The chaste, the august Son of the Virgin stands naked before that scoffing crowd. They bind His hands to a low pillar, and then shower blows upon His breast and shoulders.

Every blow first made a mark upon the body of Jesus, then opened a furrow whence oozed the blood. Blow crossed blow in every direction, literally hacking the breast and the shoulders of the Saviour: *Vulnere super vulnus*. His flesh flies about in shreds. It clings to the whips, it is upon the hands of the executioners, upon the pavement and the walls of the prætorium. The bones of the Saviour are scarcely covered by the torn flesh. We can count them.

This frightful punishment is accompanied by blasphemy, mockery, insults, and savage laughter. And Thou, O Jesus! Thou art silent as in the Sacred Host. Thou art silent, and Thou dost pray for Thy tormentors.