

round ourselves, and we are hardly able to hold up our heads. We pray about it with our eyes shut as if by instinct. The shape, the gaze, the variety of the instruments of torture are alike horrible. Then the sounds of the scourges as they fall upon the living Holy of Holies, monotonous yet various, changing as the whips are changed; and then the wet sound as the thongs become soaked with blood mingles with that fainter sound as of the almost inaudible bleating of a dying lamb, which we know to be the voice of God complaining with that inextinguishable human tenderness.

Though our eyes are closed we see the staring looks, the ferocious contenances, the swarthy chests of the myrmidons of cruelty denaturalised by the brutality of their task. We see them sprinkled with Precious Blood which mixes with their sweat and rolls down their limbs with discolored stains. Him we do not see, even with the eyes of our souls, for we have thrown ourselves on the pavement in His blood, and are holding His feet and devouring them with kisses.

THE CROWN OF THORNS.

If there be no other use of the Eternal God for Roman soldiers, at least He shall relieve the tedium of a Syrian guard-room.

Protecting their hard skinned hands with their leather gauntlets the soldiers weave a Crown of Thorns.

With jest and gibe and heathen oath the rough work is speedily accomplished. Then they rise and come near their king. Jesus is sitting on a bench. We hardly dare to look at him, he is so God-like in his abjection. How patiently he sits, blood-stained, wan and pale yet strangely pleasant to look on and exceeding gracious! Fearless and peremptory and loud, they lay hands on his long hair. If they only waited a moment they might feel the pulses of that blessed life beating in his head. They thrust the Crown upon with rude vehemence. It is not round. It will not fit. They force the spikes into his skin; the blood comes backly and slowly, and with excruciating pain. Long spikes go under the skin of the forehead, and come out above the eyes; others pierce his ears, others fret