

for ever : it is the Bread of life, the Bread of the Eucharist. Whoever faithfully eats it cannot die ; should he for an instant fall beneath the thrusts of sin, he shall revive in the virtue of this bread.

Bread of life, imparting all energy to my weakness, all virtues of the life of God Himself ! O nourishment of immortality, that founds my perishable life on the immutable rock of eternity ! O bread of honor and glory that lifts me up from the abyss of nothingness and from the still deeper abjection of sin, in order to allow me to approach, with the princes of the celestial court, the table of the King of Kings ! O Bread of peace, of consolation, of light and love, that gives me a foretaste of the unalloyed happiness I shall obtain if I faithfully follow your impulse and power : loved, praised blessed, glorified be Thou for ever by grateful humanity !

III.—PROPITIATION.

Has the world warmly welcomed the gift of life ? and how do we ourselves receive it ? Does it produce in us these fruits of holy and divine life ?

Alas ! Some, the greater number, refuse to listen to and appreciate the kind offers of our Saviour. They keep away from His table, they live their animal life, disturbed by accidents, their rational life mixed with sorrows and faults ; but they leave their souls in death ; they close their ears through pride and refuse the bread of purity through perversity ; they thrust away the best gift of God, in which He gives Himself up.

Others, perhaps guiltier, at least more mean-spirited, wish to reconcile the divine life with a guilty life, eat at once of the table of God and that of the devil. By receiving, without the faith that enlightens, without the love that purifies, the living bread in their soul, which are in a state of death through sin, they only add to the weight of divine anger, which drives them more lamentably to death.

And as to myself ? Do I live the life of God ? are my thoughts deriving from His thoughts their rule of faith ? Is He my supreme love, only loved for Himself and ruling all my other loves ? and if I do not live the life of