

not inconvenience themselves to greet and adore Him. May Jesus Christ never have to address to us His plaint.

"Jerusalem ! Jerusalem ! Hadst thou but known the time of My visitation !"

IV. — Prayer.

Let us ask of our Lord the help of His holy grace so that we may persevere in adoring and serving Him in the Holy Eucharist. We, too, like the Wise Men, will have difficulties to overcome and obstacles to surmount.

1. The Wise Men, in order to follow the call of God asking them to adore the Christ-child, had to sacrifice their rest, to abandon the affairs of their kingdoms, to leave their families and friends and undertake a long and perilous journey across the desert. When Christ in the Eucharist calls us to adore Him or to devote ourselves to promoting His Eucharistic glory ; — above all, when He bids us partake of the Bread of Angels, let us leave behind us the world and its preoccupation, its bonds and ties, and hasten joyfully and loyally to Jesus. Let nothing detain us, even though we must pass through fire and water and traverse whole continents to reach Him.

2. The Wise Men expected to find Jerusalem in gala attire on the occasion of the birth of its King, but all was sad and lifeless, instead of an enthusiastic and sympathetic crowd they met with only coldness and indifference. The insidious proposals of Herod spoke to them too, only of his hatred and fury against Jesus. The souls whom Jesus calls to adoration or to Communion often meet with indifference or contempt, from those who ought to invite and lead them to the Altar, they will meet with worldly sceptics and scoffers, who would deride their zeal and piety and reproach them with their smallest imperfections as with crimes. They may even encounter open persecution and hatred for the Holy Eucharist.

3. God Himself wished to prove the constancy and generosity of the Wise Men. After having guided them by divine signs to Jerusalem, He took from them their Star and left them alone to face the hatred of the king of Judea and the haughty coldness of the priests and scribes of the Law. We, too, shall see the light of heaven pale at times in life : Jesus in the Eucharist will try our courage by leaving us in darkness during our adoration, or by withdrawing the spiritual sweetness of our communion. Let us be firm and persevering in such painful moments, and the light from on high will return to comfort us at last. Lastly, let us always turn to Mary when seeking our Saviour. In her arms we shall find Him, as did the Wise Men, and she will ever remain the most beautiful ostensorium of Jesus, holding Him up for the adoration of the world.