

"*Let Him be crucified!*" may all unite in voice and heart to sound abroad in every quarter of the globe the cry of adoration : "*Let Him be adored!*"

"*Adoremus in æternum Sanctissimum Sacramentum!*"

III. — Reparation.

"*What shall I do with the King of the Jews?*" A judge ought to judge according to facts. Pilate's first crime was to deliver his authority into the hands of a furious populace stirred up against Jesus. The Roman Procurator no longer gives orders. He seems to demand them. He does not use the right given him by his position to defend, he consults the caprice of a delirious multitude, although he knows full well this caprice is that of hate and envy.

Pardon, O Jesus, in the name of that poltroon, that dastardly judge ! He has judged the cause, and it is now for him to decide the case. It has been examined, the Prisoner's innocence acknowledged, and yet he consults the mob as to the decision. Why does he not free Him ? Because he is afraid of the Sanhedrites, he is afraid of being denounced and degraded before Cæsar. The Jews are aware of this, and so they become bolder than ever. Their answer is plain : "*Let Him be crucified!*"

Such is the barbarous sentence pronounced by these blood-thirsty tigers. They shout, they tremble with rage, they go mad. It is not only an accusation against Jesus, but a clamor. It is not even on account of a judgment passed upon Him, but through the violence with which they themselves shout for the death of Jesus. To the Hosanna of the last few days, they oppose the "*Crucifigatur!—Let Him be crucified!*" And they demand for their Victim not only death, but the cross. The cross was of all punishments the most cruel and ignominious, the punishment of slaves. They feared that His memory would go down to posterity, therefore they wished that to His very death should be attached a note of infamy.

It was for the Messiah that they demanded death, and the death of the cross ! Of what use those ardent prayers sent up to Heaven by the holy nation during so many ages to hasten the coming of the Messiah ? their burning sighs that the clouds might rain down the Just One ? What ingratitude ! Jesus had done them naught but good. He had employed His wisdom in instructing them. His kindness in consoling them, His al-