

shall examine its history in detail in the passion, considering, one after another, each harrowing scene as it is set before us in the light of faith by the Holy Spirit in order that it may remain deeply engraved on our hearts.

III.

THE GOSPEL NARRATIVE.

The seven sheddings of the Precious Blood.

(1) The Redeeming Blood began to flow at the Circumcision as recorded by St. Luke. This was the first effusion.

(2) The same Evangelist describes the most striking incident of the agony of Jesus thus : "HIS SWEAT BECAME AS DROPS OF BLOOD RUNNING DOWN TO THE GROUND." Since the sweat of blood flowed down even to the ground, the blood flowed abundantly over the sacred members and the holy victim was covered with it from the beginning of His passion : so necessary was the shedding and effusion of the Divine Blood to wash away the horrible sins and corruption of the whole world.

On His sacred face and on His whole person, Jesus bore the marks and imprint of His bloody agony, when the brutal executioners appeared and gave full vent to their fury. Then, from brutal blows and wounds inflicted mercilessly and unceasingly upon Him, the Precious Blood flowed freely forth. This cruel treatment began in the garden of olives and continued without ceasing all the rest of the night and the following day : on the road to Jerusalem, at the houses of Annas, and Caiphas and the palace of Pontius Pilate. "It was the hour and the reign of the powers of darkness," says Jesus Himself, *Hæc est hora vestra et potestas tenebrarum.*

ANTHONY.

(To be continued.)

"If there is one region more than another where Mary, in right of her glorious title of Mother of God, reigns supreme, it is in Purgatory."