

St. Cyprian thus wrote and related his experience :—"Listen to an event that took place in my own presence, and *on my own testimony*. Some parents who made their escape, in the thoughtlessness of terror left behind them, at nurse, an infant daughter, whom the nurse, finding in her hands, gave over to the magistrates. Unable, through its tender years to eat flesh, they gave it, before an idol to which the crowd assembled, bread mingled with some wine which however was remains of that which had been used in the soul slaughter of perishing Christians. The mother afterwards got back her child, but the infant was unable to express and make known the act that had been committed, as she had before been to understand or to prevent it. Through ignorance therefore it arose, that, when we were sacrificing, the mother brought it in with her. The child, however, mixed with the Holy congregation, could not bear our prayers and worship; it was, at one moment, convulsed with weeping, then became tossed like a wave by throbs of feeling, and the babe's soul, while yet in the tender days, confessed a consciousness of what had happened with what signs it could, as if forced to do so by a torturer. When, however, after the solemnities were complete, the Deacon began to offer the cup to those who were there and in the course of their receiving its *(the infant's)* "turn came," *(Note, this—a then usage of the primitive Church—had the sanction of St. Cyprian)* "The little child turned it's face away, under the instinct of God's majesty, compressed its lips in resistance and refused the cup. The Deacon, however, persevered, and forced upon her, against her will, of *(sic)* the Sacrament of the cup." *(Note, the good St. Cyprian was present)* "There followed a sobbing and vomiting. The Eucharist was not able to remain in a body and mouth that had been polluted.—The secrets of the darkness are laid open under the Lord's light, and *God's Priest could not be deceived in crimes however hidden.*" *Libr. of Fathers of the Holy Catholic Church. 3 Vol. p. 168 Sec. 16.* Edited and translated by members of the English Church.

#### NOTE B.

The significance of these last words has not been apprehended by some commentators, while they have been wrested from their purpose by others.

Our Lord had declared to the Jews that He had come down from Heaven to do his Father's will, and that his Father's will was that every one who believed on Him who had visited earth on that mission, should have eternal life. The Jews had murmured and said "Is not this Jesus, the Son of Joseph whose Father and Mother we know? how is it then that he saith I came down from Heaven"? And many of his disciples who had heard (his whole previous discourse) had said this is an hard saying; who can hear it? "Thereupon Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, "Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of Man" (him whom ye have regarded as