

plucked the arrow from the body ; the soul must seize every chance of strengthening itself against future falls and must prepare itself for fresh struggles." Add to this, that penance and atonement in our lives make us resemble Christ more and more. "If we suffer with Him we shall be glorified with Him ;" and a great saint said, somewhere, that there is nothing more incongruous than a soldier seeking his ease under a chief crowned with thorns.

The question that we naturally put to ourselves is : How can we do our share in the work of reparation ? Here is a horizon, vast as the world, that opens itself before us. To understand, even dimly, the reparation of Christ and our own duty, we must go to Gethsemane. It was there that all the sins of the world, for which He made Himself responsible in taking on our nature, were present to Him in their countless multitudes ; and they crushed Him under their weight. Try to count them, even remotely. How many mortal sins are committed in the world every hour ? How many in a month, in a year, in a century ? How many shall be committed till the end of the world ? All these have to be atoned for. Count our personal sins and those that we make others commit, those that are marked in the Book of Life against us, that cannot be blotted out unless we do our share in their expiation. We do not need to be formed apostles, or clothed with the dignity of the priesthood, to pray and suffer and offer little sacrifices to the Sacred Heart, in atonement for our own and others' sins. How many expiatory acts could we perform if we simply observed faithfully our obligations as Promoters and Associates of the League ? Think of the prayers and, above all, the Masses of reparation that could be offered through our instrumentality. We ask for Masses of thanksgiving and for the Holy Souls — excellent intentions in themselves — but how many think of asking their pastors, to offer Masses of reparation ? Then we have the Communions of reparation, in union with the Heart of Jesus, the Holy Hour, the