

possess heaven in our hearts, to possess Jesus, the joy of the elect... and not to die of such happiness? Since we may not die, dear Lord, may we at least live in unceasing gratitude for the unspeakable gift of Thy divine Heart.

III. — Reparation.

Among the touching scenes depicted in the evangelical accounts of the Epiphany, there are two that are sad and painful.

1. The Wise Men on entering Jerusalem turned quite naturally towards the palace of Herod, to find there and adore the King of the Jews. The petty and cruel usurper of the throne of Judea was completely unnerved : he feared the advent of an avenger of his crimes, The high priests told him that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, and, therefore, he sent the Wise Men there, hypocritically asking them to return and tell him the result of their search, in order that he too might go and adore the child God.

Cruel Herod. Why fear this Infant King? Does He who gives eternal kingdoms, wish to take away those of earth?

And in our times a blind, insensate, cruel hatred pursues Jesus in His sweet and peaceful Host of the Tabernacle. There, too, he is King — but what glory could be more unselfish, what victories more peaceful! He comes neither to supplant, nor to destroy. He comes for all in this sacrament of love. Why, then, should there be so much hatred towards our holy mystery? Why this fury shown towards God — as though God could fall under such strokes — and as though He had not all eternity, in which to wreak His vengeance.

2. But the coldness and indifference of the Jews, at the arrival of the Wise Men, was a still sadder spectacle.

Surely the oracle of Jacob, the promises made by God to the patriarchs, the prophecy of Daniel, as to the exact time of the advent of the Messiah; had not been forgotten. No, and the scribes, at Herod's request, read to him the prophecy of Micheas, which indicates Bethlehem as the place of His birth.

But not one bestirred himself to greet the Messiah; every one returned home, while the Wise Men alone sadly turned towards the road that led to Bethlehem.

Alas! The conduct of many Christians reminds us of the indifference of the inhabitants of Jerusalem! Every morning Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist, but we are not aroused by this act of love. He is ever present in His tabernacle, calling shepherds and kings, the poor and the rich, subjects and sovereigns, to His feet, but they remain cold and indifferent.

They know that Jesus is there and would even prove this to such as might deny it. Like the Jews of Jerusalem they know the Law and the Prophets; they direct others to Jesus Christ, but they will