

by Jesus Christ Himself at the commencement of His public life ; this word that the Apostles never could comprehend ; this word which, by immolating the Victim, is going to effect the salvation of the world,—this word Jerusalem has, at last, heard pronounced by the people ! The souls of the just in Limbo, the angels in heaven, are moved on hearing this horrible cry, while at the same time they tremble with joy at the blessed revolution it is going to accomplish in the supernatural world.

“ *What evil hath He done ?* ” exclaims Pilate, stupefied at hearing this cry of death, “ *I find no cause of death in Him. I will chastise Him, therefore, and let Him go.* ” This is the third time he has proclaimed the innocence of Jesus : once, after his interrogatory in the prætorium ; a second time, when Herod sent Him back to him ; and now his declaration is still more solemn, more energetic. Divine Wisdom makes him proclaim Jesus’ innocence and, at the same time, wills that He should be condemned as guilty. By this we are given to understand that Jesus is the Paschal Victim, pure and innocent, destined to satisfy by His death, not for His own sins, but for those of others.

“ *What evil hath He done ?* ” Who could discover in Jesus the slightest fault ? In what could He be a malefactor, He, the Creator of all good, the Sovereign Good, from whom all good proceeds ? In what could He be a malefactor, He essential Holiness ?

“ *What evil hath He done ?* ” Let the possessed whom He delivered, rise and answer, the sick whom He cured, the lepers whom He cleansed, the deaf to whom He gave hearing, the dumb whom He caused to speak, the blind to whom He restored sight, the dead whom He raised,—let all say whether Jesus is or is not a malefactor !

In vain does Pilate attempt to reason or discuss with this frenzied multitude. They are impressed neither by his reasoning nor his questions. They do not even listen to him. Their only answer is to cry out with still more violence : “ *Let Him be crucified.* ”

Adore in the Host, as in the prætorium, the true Messiah promised to the Jews and to the gentiles. He is the King of the Jews, as well as our King. May all governments, all nations, recognize His Divinity, and in reparation for the bloody injury inflicted on His Heart by the blasphemy of the Jews :