

I brought you out of Egypt, and I submerged Pharaoh in the Red Sea. But you have delivered Me to the Princes of the priests!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

I have opened for you a passage through the sea, and you have opened My side with a lance!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

I went before you as a pillar of cloud, but you have led Me to the judgment-seat of Pilate.

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

I fed you with manna in the desert, and you have covered Me with blows and the stripes of the whip!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

I slaked your thirst with clear water from the rock, but you gave Me gall and vinegar in My thirst!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

For your sake, for your safety, I struck the Kings of Canaan, but you have struck My head with a reed!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

I placed upon your head, O My people. O My child, a royal diadem, and you have crowned My head with thorns!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

I raised you to a place of pre-eminence, but you raised Me and fastened Me to the gibbet of the cross!

"O My people, O My child, what have I done to you? In what have I afflicted you? Answer Me!"

Yes, Jesus, my own life, like that of Thy people, is one tissue of Thy benefits and, like that same people, I have generally responded to Thy merciful advances by the blackest ingratitude. I acknowledge it with a heart filled with sincere repentance.

IV. — Prayer.

The Jews call Him who came into this world for the destruction of evil a malefactor! Even in our own day, Jesus is regarded as a malefactor at the tribunals of the majority of the great ones of the world. They look upon His teaching and morality as noxious, and they suppress them from the official programme of instruction!

Arise, O Father Almighty! May all the enemies of Thy Son be scattered! Since Thou hast been so good as to leave us Jesus here