

Moreover, in order that a particular worship should be rendered to the Heart of Jesus, it was necessary that there should be sufficient reason for this worship. Although all the members of our Saviour's Body are adorable, the Church does not authorise us to honor all with a particular worship. If she has permitted the worship of the Sacred Heart, it is because exceptional reasons required it.

These reasons are : the symbolical excellence of the heart in the human organism ; the attraction which the saints have always had towards the Heart of Jesus wounded on Calvary ; and finally, the express revelations and clearly manifested will of our Lord Himself.

III

WHY WE HONOR THE LOVE OF JESUS, THE SPIRITUAL OBJECT OF THE DEVOTION.

The principal reason for adoring the Heart of Jesus, is that with it, and through it, we honor the love of that Heart, — the two-fold love, created and uncreated, human and Divine, of which the Heart is the symbol and the emblem.⁽¹⁾ Nothing is more worthy of the adoration of angels and of men, than the love which fills the Heart of the Son of God.

We do not esteem men for their exterior gifts of body or of mind. The world, it is true, sets its value on the exterior qualities ; but God who sees into the heart, looks beyond the surface which is often deceiving. Man looks at the face ; God scrutinises the heart : "*Dominus autem intrinsetur cor* (1 Kings xvi. 7) ; and in His eyes, the essential qualities are those of the heart, viz : the will, the affections, and the love which fills his heart. If the heart is good the man is good, and *vice-versa*. God looks at man through his heart.

(1) "When I adore the Heart of Jesus, I adore that transport of everlasting charity, which caused the Eternal Word to offer Himself as a victim for our redemption." (Cardinal Pie.)