

them and even raised the dead to life. He was the best and the most lovable of men."

"Why then did they put Him on a cross? Who was wicked enough to lay hands on the Son of God and treat Him so?"

"It was done by wicked men, and the love He bore them induced Him to die on the cross for all men. By the sin of Adam, paradise was shut and no one could have entered it, if the Son of God had not opened it again to us. In order to re-open it, He came into this world, where He underwent the death of the cross to blot out the sins of all men and merit for all an eternal reward."

"And is that really true?"

"I assure you, it is exactly as I say."

"O dear Son of God," began the boy, clasping the Crucifix in his hands, "how good You are! Why would you suffer so much? This is too much! to die so cruel a death that men might be happy for ever. I love you, O Son of God! Give me a peaceful death, when I die!" and he kissed it reverently.

Then he turned to me, and in appealing accents, said:

"Oh! let me keep this image!"

"Yes, I give it to you, and may it remind you of the great love the Son of God had for you also in dying upon the cross."

"I am very grateful."

"Pray to Jesus for me also, that I too may rejoice one day with Him in paradise!"

"But how is this? He is dead and yet He can hear my prayers?"

"Yes, because three days after, He rose from the tomb, and now lives gloriously in Paradise, surrounded by many blessed spirits. He will never die again, but will live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, where evil is no more,