

worship the living Presence of Christ? It is the devotion of all lands, of all ages, of all classes. All times are its own. As a sacrifice, it is the daily expiation, and as a Sacrament the daily bread of the faithful. It is the cause and the object of many religious orders, whose lives and energies it simply engrosses to itself. There is incessant adoration of it ever going on in the Church; there are many cities where the Blessed Sacrament is only taken down in one church when it is put up in another, and night and day the inhabitants watch and pray before it. In many convents through the silent night, gentle victims of reparation weep and worship before the lonely tabernacle. In many countries pious seculars, men and women, are banded in associations to take hours of adoration in succession, wherever they may be. Here and at the antipodes, if we count both sides of the earth at once, through the four and twenty hours there is uninterrupted Mass. And what with preparation for Mass and Communion, and what with thanksgiving, if we could see the whole world at any given hour, we should see multitudes deeply absorbed in the Blessed Sacrament. Nor less wonderful is its power over private life. It is at all hours making all men happier, because it is hindering sin, sweetening bitterness, calming angry temper, soothing sorrow and engendering countless works of mercy. Social life, with marriage and its domestic institutions, is always feeling its hallowing influence; and it is ever multiplying peace in the political world between governments and the governed. It can even attract heretics by a kind of spell, and in gentle but erring hearts it silently preaches itself, sweetly constraining more souls into Peter's fold than the close reasonings of the controversialist or the greater influence of the hot words of a true preacher of Jesus Crucified. Its alliance with the deep spiritual life of interior souls is unbroken, and is continually leading to the heights of self-renunciation and the wonders of supernatural prayer. The ordinary world, the moral, social, political, literary, devotional, ecclesiastical, and mystical worlds,—the Blessed Sacrament is brooding over them all with fertile, pacific, and creative power throughout the mighty centuries. O silent whirlpool of divinest love! how