

strides towards the longed-for goal — human comfort and well-being if not human happiness. Unfortunately those who benefit by such inventions and devices are not the many, but the wealthy and the comparatively well-to-do, while the bulk of humanity, even in our bustling centres, toil and slave, suffer and starve, just as the poor and the disinherited by fortune have ever done from the beginning. Job still crouches on his dunghill, Lazarus at the door-step, and the nameless pilgrim still lies bleeding by the wayside between Jericho and Jerusalem. And were it not for the God-inspired but all-insufficient endeavours of the few emulators of a Vincent of Paul, a Claver or a Damien, one might be tempted to think that the Angel of Mercy had taken his flight to other and distant worlds.

So that, after all, the world is not nearer that utopian age when the weary shall have rest and when suffering shall be unknown. For the believer, his faith teaches him that this consummation is reserved for the "New Jerusalem and the new earth" where "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and death shall be no more, nor mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow shall be any more, for the former things (shall have) passed away" (Apoc. xxi, 4). But as long as "the former things" last, just so long will the denizens of earth be subject to pain under one or other form. "If thou fling away one cross," says the Imitation, "without doubt thou wilt find another, and perhaps a heavier. Dost thou think to escape that which no mortal ever could avoid. . . . Thou errest, thou errest, if thou seekest aught else than to suffer tribulation; for this whole mortal life is full of miseries, and everywhere marked with crosses" (B. ii, C. xii).

Were we in any doubt about this we would have but to recall the awful event, fraught with redemption for the human race, whose anniversary the Church commemorates on the last day of the present month of March.

Stark on the rock of Calvary, in rugged outline against the lowering darkness beyond, stood three crosses,