

sung with transport the canticle of his deliverance. His remains were interred in the cemetery of the Holy Innocents at Paris. The inhabitants of Staines were inconsolable, at being thus deprived of his venerable relics, as they regarded him as the promoter of their best interests and the edification of their village.

At the school of the poor but virtuous Bessard, let us learn to prefer virtue to every thing, and however mean his birth or education, to recognise as truly great the pious, humble, and zealous Christian.

### The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross.

Translated from the French of M. Piron, Professor in the Seminary of Lucon.

The first observation which presents itself to our mind, when we are disposed to meditate on these divine words, is that they are seven in number—a number always mysterious in the holy scriptures, and especially intended to designate any thing perfect in its kind. Thus there are seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, seven sacraments, seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer, &c., to give us to understand that these gifts, these sacraments, that prayer, exhibit a complete catalogue of the necessary graces, of the means by which they are communicated, and of the petitions which we should offer to God. Following up this principle we should believe that the seven words of Jesus on the cross, declare to us the mystery of the unspeakable perfection of the dispositions in which he dies, and consequently, present a perfect model of those in which we should die ourselves.

Another very striking circumstance is, that the seven last words of our Saviour, have not been all recorded by

any of the four Evangelists. St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke, have only related four; namely, the first, second, third, and seventh, whilst the three others are mentioned by St. John alone. Nevertheless, beloved disciple, you were present. Is it possible then, that you did not hear them all? Could your grief, or perhaps, the heroic effort, which you required to follow Mary to the foot of the cross, have made you inattentive, whilst the other words were spoken? Or rather, did your sacred pen, which wrote after the other three Evangelists, merely wish to supply their silence, by relating only the words which they had omitted, in order that the entire should present themselves to our view, in the most moving character, thus extracted word by word, and collected together by us as the scattered shreds of a divine inheritance?

Whatever may be the reason, Christians, we are in possession of them all! We possess this precious whole. Let us adore God, who has pronounced them; let us meditate on the entire, and imprint them on our hearts.

#### FIRST WORD.

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

Luke xviii. 24.

This word, pronounced by Jesus whilst they were nailing his adorable body to the cross, seems to have been elicited by the very peculiar cruelty with which his impatient executioners expedited the work of punishment, in order to finish their victim. Thus, the first word of this innocent victim is in behalf of his murderers, and this word prays for them, and implores their pardon.

*Father, forgive them, for they know*