

*but only say the word and my soul shall be healed !*

At this moment one may well recall the scene of institution of the Sacrament. There is seen our Saviour seated at the table. His voice is heard — His who, the day before He suffered, took bread into His holy and venerable hands, and lifting up His eyes to heaven said, *This is my body*. We, you, all, are the disciples. He is now seen drawing near.

The words used by the priest when receiving are these of the centurion when he welcomed our Lord to his house. This worthy, humble soldier never dreamed that his simple salutation was destined to be oftener repeated than any form of words known on this earth ! It was, indeed, an extraordinary compliment or reward for his devotion and humility. As every morning comes round in every quarter of the globe, his humble words, *Lord I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof ; but only say the word and my soul shall be healed*, are recited millions and millions of times over, in this holy association with our Lord's presence. He has thus acquired a permanent companionship never to be interrupted on earth.

This declaration should be in the heart of every one, and really expresses more than the longest prayer. There is the extremest humility and profound gratitude ; a hope and confidence in our Lord's great goodness. There is pleading for our shortcomings ; a reminder, too, of the promise, " Ask and you shall receive." So we repeat, " Say but the word and my soul shall be healed."

The words which accompany the administration are : *The body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep thy soul unto eternal life* — a prayer that the Lord, as He has entered, would keep close and vigilant watch over us until eternity begins.

With equal appropriateness, when all is finished, and the priest has ascended the altar, we may repeat Simeon's words : *Now, O Lord, dost Thou dismiss Thy servant in peace, for my eyes have this day seen Thy salvation ; and there is a short prayer said by the priest as he replaces the ciborium in the Tabernacle, which may be appropriated by the communicant : What we have taken in the mouth, O Lord, may we receive with a pure heart, and from a gift that is temporal be it to us an eternal remedy.*

Or there is a noble passage in a Homily of St. John of