

bosom, nevertheless she must cede her treasure to Simeon, that he may hold him in his arms, press him to his heart, shower loving reverent kisses upon Him.

Then, after a last look, a last embrace, a loving sigh, which is in itself a prayer wafted to heaven, he closes his eyes, exclaiming : " Now, O Lord ! let thy servant depart in peace : " "*Nunc dimittis Domine.*"

He wishes to see nothing further after having looked on Jesus ; not only death has no terrors for him, but he longs for it, prays for it. The world he no longer considers worthy of his gaze, fearing by contact with it to profane his eyes sanctified by the sight of Jesus Christ. He is eager to quit this earthly life, to go to the bosom of Abraham, there, to await his Redeemer and to announce to the children of God " the Consolation of Israel " as of near at hand.

Having saluted in Jesus the companion of his exile, and received his Saviour's blessing, he leaves the Temple, his heart overflowing with love and joyous thanksgiving.

Happy Simeon ! But happier still the Christian who can in Holy Communion receive Jesus before death !

Solemn indeed is the moment which precedes our passage from time to eternity ! There is something appalling in this truth : to-day I shall appear before my God, and in those dread words faintly sounding in our ears, " Depart from this world, O Christian soul, in the name of the all-powerful God who created thee."

In this hour of anguish and fear where shall we find a consoler to whom we may fly ? Who will not tremble on that day of reckoning when the righteous scarce stand secure, when every hidden thought is known ? Ah ! if there be a means of changing this day of " wrath and sorrow," into one of confidence and peace, disclose it to me, I pray.

This means exists : it is the Divine Eucharist. This consoler can be found, and is found, in Jesus help of the dying.

Simeon went to the Temple to seek Jesus. When we are unable to go to His Temple Jesus will come to us in our homes, to return our previous visits a hundred fold. He will come to cast Himself into our arms, nay more,