

had taken flight in fear at the moment of Thy arrest, so now Thy disciples are hidden under the influence of their cowardice or, if they are present, they are among the vanquished.

This scene, so desolating for the Heart of a God, is renewed at every instant upon the theatre of this world even in the midst of Christian nations. The habitual cry of all impious governments is : "*Not this Man, but Barabbas !*" We see even those that possess authority to defend Christ, hiring in every branch of their administration crowds of employers whose mission is to destroy among the masses confidence in Christ, in His doctrine and name. They close Catholic schools, chapels, and churches. They thereby destroy the worship of the Holy Eucharist, dragging King Jesus down from His thrones of Exposition. It is, indeed, the *tolle* of the Jews, the satanic cry : "*No, not this Man, but Barabbas !*"

Pardon, O Sacred Heart of my Jesus ! Pardon for that odious and iniquitous preference of the Jews ! Pardon for all those governments that unjustly deprive Thee of Thy rights and prerogative ! Pardon for all who attack Thee even in the Sacrament of Thy love ! Pardon for the souls in purgatory now expiating the preference they once gave to the creature over the Creator !

Pardon for my own sins, which I now hate with all my soul ! I promise Thee to come often to weep over them at Thy sacred feet. Grant me the grace to regard Thee henceforth as my All and my only Well-Beloved !

#### IV. — Prayer.

"*Not this Man, but Barabbas !* That the world should esteem Barabbas above Jesus, is not astonishing, for the world loves what belongs to it. If Jesus had been of the world, the world would have loved and appreciated Him ; but because He was not of the world, the world would not recognize Him, the world hated Him. It is because Jesus is from heaven, and not of the earth. He is from God, and not of the world.

Alas ! what the Jews have done I am capable of doing. Jesus and Barabbas, the low and perverse sentiments of my heart always prefer the latter. I feel, the necessity of Thy succor, O Jesus, that I may give Thee the first place always and in every thing, the first rank in my esteem, the first in