

“ Surely he hath borne our infirmities, and carried
 “ our sorrows ; and we have thought him as it were a
 “ leper, and one struck by God and afflicted.

“ But he was wounded for our iniquities, he was
 “ bruised for our sins ; the chastisement of our peace was
 “ upon him, and by his bruises we are healed.

“ All we like sheep have gone astray, every one hath
 “ turned aside into his own ways ; and the Lord hath laid
 “ on him the iniquity of us all.

“ He was offered because it was his own will and he
 “ opened not his mouth : *he shall be led as a sheep to the*
 “ *slaughter, and shall be dumb as a lamb before his shear-*
 “ *er, and he shall not open his mouth !* ” (Isaiah, 53).

When this grand and fundamental prophecy has been fulfilled on Calvary, St Peter as the chief of the Apostles, the first sovereign Pontiff and supreme doctor of mankind, confirms the doctrines of the prophet, bears testimony to the same mystery, uses the same emblem and assures us that we are indebted for our redemption to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, as of a Lamb unspotted and undefiled, foreknown and announced from the beginning and now fully manifested to us in all his attracting and purifying love :

“ Converse in fear during the time of your sojourning
 “ here : Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible gold or silver from your vain conversation of
 “ the tradition of your fathers ; but with the precious blood
 “ of Christ, *as a lamb unspotted and undefiled : fore-*
 “ *known indeed before the foundation of the world, but*
 “ *manifested in the last times for you*, who through
 “ him are faithful in God, who raised him from the
 “ dead, and gave him glory, that your faith and hope
 “ might be in God, purifying your souls in the obedience
 “ of charity with a brotherly love.” (I Peter, I, 17-22).

The glory, power and eternal triumph of the divine Lamb in Heaven with all the elect are amongst the most magnificent visions of the Apocalypse : the richest of them have been already quoted, namely in the number of February last, page 100.

The hymn of the paschal time invites the faithful,