

rious sunshine that flooded the place. I had been told of the pretty custom ; but though not taken entirely by surprise, I was unprepared for the beauty of the scene and for the emotions it awakened.

After Mass the blossoms lay in thick profusion on the floor, and little children gathered handfuls as they passed out for the pleasure of toying with their delicate beauty.

**Seven years without making his Easter duty.** — In an hospital lays a mortally wounded soldier awaiting death ! The Chaplain, a fervent young levite, was dearly loved by the patients of all classes and creeds on account of his kind, sympathetic manner. When No 18, as our poor soldier was called, was brought in, he took special interest in his case and persuaded him to make his confession without delay.

After the Blood of Jesus had flowed on his soul, he asked the chaplain if he might receive on the following day. Most certainly, my friend, replied the priest." The next day on making his round the chaplain paid an early visit to No 18, and after minute inquiries about his health and general comfort asked : "Are you very happy, now, that you have been to communion ? "

" Yes, Father, and allow me to tell you I would like to go again to-morrow."

" Very well, you may."

The following day during the course of conversation the priest asked : " Was this second communion as happy as the first ? "

" Yes, indeed, Father, and I would like to receive again to-morrow."

" But — three communions one after another will surprise your comrades."

" Oh ! that does not matter. I don't mind what they think. As long as you give me permission, that is all I want."

" Yes, since you desire it, I give you permission."

The third day the chaplain visited the soldier again : " How are you today ? " he inquired kindly.

" I am growing weaker every hour, Father. I don't think I can last much longer. Please anoint me in good time and if possible let me receive communion again to-morrow,"

" Tell me first, my dear fellow," answered the surprised chaplain, " what motive induces you to communicate so often."

" You know, Father, I was seven years without making my Easter duty ; I long to appear before our Lord with my debt cancelled."

" Then, by all means, communicate until you do."

The poor soldier had the great consolation and happiness of living until the morning on which he had fully cancelled his debt.