

the celebration of the Holy Mysteries gave rise to the report that sorceries and witchcraft and diabolical orgies were practised under the cloak of religion.

In later times, persecution of the Blessed Sacrament took another shape, and it seemed as though the hate of all the powers of Hell was let loose against the worship of Christians, against the Sacred Host in particular. In the words of Boudon, "Our hair stands on end, and our whole body trembles with dread, when we consider the abominable profanation of this Sacrament of love committed by sorcerers, and the impieties practised by heretics towards this adorable mystery." In the life of M. Olier, founder of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, we find that magic was systematically practised in his class and that the profanations to which the Blessed Sacrament was subjected were horrible beyond measure. "Shortly after M. Olier entered on the duties of the parish (St. Sulpice) the baillee of the suburb being in pursuit of three persons accused of sorcery, and mistaking one house for another, found an altar dedicated to the evil spirit with these words inscribed upon it : *Gratias tibi Lucifer ; gratias tibi Beelzebub ; gratias tibi Azazel*. The altar was a kind of *travestie* of that consecrated to Catholic worship ; the candles were black, the ornaments about it were all in keeping with its infernal object, and the book of prayers, as if a mockery of the Missal, consisted of diabolical incantations."

Could misapprehension of the love of Jesus go farther than this ? In our own day, the day of intellectual pride, pursuit of science and worship of the human mind, the weakness of the Blessed Sacrament is a scandal, the touching abjection of our Lord Jesus Christ reduced to the form of a piece of bread is held as folly by some, impotency by others, and a sheer imposture by a great number of persons ! Such love, such a plenitude of humiliation cannot be gauged by the narrow compass of human science, and therefore it is contemned, despised and rejected, and Jesus is left to mourn in the solitude of His Tabernacle over these misguided children, who, when "He came unto His own, received Him not."

We know, from personal experience, how keenly wounded we are when those amongst whom we live mis-