

At all events its effect was marvellous. Her love of God grew day by day more intense. Her patience, forgiveness and charity towards those who had ill-used her were incessantly brought into action and became so great that she says, "I felt constantly urged to render some service to those people as to the true friends of my soul, and I would gladly have sacrificed myself for them. Nothing gave me greater pleasure than to render them a service and to say all the good of them that I could."



Apparition of the "Ecce Homo."

She also became filled with still greater love of suffering, so that, like Saint Mary Magdalen of Pazzi, she cried out: "More oh Lord! more." She desired that her pains might never cease for a minute, and began

to regard those who made her suffer as the greatest benefactors of her soul.

She does not speak openly of any visions during this time but incidentally mentions our Lord as continually with her under some form of suffering, such as the "Ecce Homo," but in what way she perceived this she does not explained.

When Margaret reached the age of eighteen, the persecutions of her family took a new and more dangerous form. Not merely did her cruel relations try her, but her own mother and brothers joined them; and this added bitterness to the trial. She had, at an early age, bound herself by a vow of chastity and, though her mother knew of this, it was proposed that she should marry one of the many suitors who sought her hand. The whole aspect of her home changed from the daily drudgery, which had so worn her