

tina, at Bolsena, called "delle Pedate." When he had come to that part of the Canon where the breaking and dividing of the Sacred Host takes place, immediately before the "Agnus Dei," a startling prodigy rivetted his eyes. Parts of the Host assumed the form of living flesh, while the smaller part, held over the chalice, retained its original shape. (This fact, as the old chronicler remarks, goes to prove that all the various parts belonged to the same Host.) Blood now began to flow in such quantities that it stained the corporal, the purificatory, and even soaked through, so as to mark the very altar-stone. The startled priest, quite overcome at so unexpected a sight, and not knowing what course to pursue, endeavored to fold the corporal up as carefully as he could, so as to hide the miracle from the faithful present at Mass. But all to no purpose; for the more he tried to hide the miracle, the more was it made manifest, and that too by a fresh wonder. Each of the larger spots of blood on the corporal (about twelve in number), assumed the distinct form of the head and face of our Saviour, as in his Passion, crowned with thorns. Peter, having arranged the chalice and paten, and having folded up the corporal as well as he was able, in which he reverently placed that part of the Host that had changed form, bore them away to the sacra-rium. On his way thither, in spite of every care on the priest's part, some of the blood fell upon five stones of the marble floor of the sanctuary. So great a prodigy became noised abroad to the whole town, and one account states that messengers were despatched to His Holiness, Pape Urban IV., at the neighboring city of Orvieto.

What had occurred proved, as we have seen, to be a five-fold wonder: 1. One portion of the Host took the form of flesh, 2. It remains so to this day, in the silver shrine, after six hundred years. 3. A quantity of blood flowed there from; 4. so much so that it crimsoned the corporal, two purifiers, the altar-cloth, the altar-stone, and the pavement; 5. The larger stains on the corporal took the form of our Saviour's face and head, crowned with thorns. The stain on one of the stones also took the latter form, as was solemnly sworn to by Cardinal Mellius.

In deep grief of soul for his former want of faith, Peter went off without delay to Orvieto, where, as a peni-