



HOUR OF ADORATION

JESUS IS COVERED WITH SPITTLE

I. — Adoration.

Up to this moment the Jews had preseed toward Jesus at least some appearance of justice ; but after His condemnation, their fury knew no bounds. The Divine condemned will, indeed, be " saturated with opprobrium."

They began by spitting on the Face of Jesus ! According to the Scripture text, this was the first outrage inflicted on the good Saviour after His condemnation : "*Then they began to spit in His face.*" Men spit only on what they consider most vile. To spit on anyone, above all to spit in his face, is not that the mark of sovereign contempt ? The Gospel means to infer that the servants of the High Priest and the guards of the Sanhedrim were not the only ones who poured out on their Victim their impure spittle, but that the numbers of the Grand Council themselves set the deplorable example. It is upon the Face of Jesus they amuse themselves by spitting ! upon that forehead which, infinitely more than the foreheads of all other men, reflected the image and the majesty of God ! They spat upon those eyes, sweeter and more gentle than even the eyes of Mary ; upon those eyes which so faithfully mirrored the sentiments of the best of hearts. They spat upon those lips that had uttered so many consoling words. They spat upon those cheeks, that hair, that beard ! With horrible spittle, they covered the Face of Him whom Scripture calls "*the most beautiful among the children of men,*" the Face that the Gentiles most ardently desired to see when they said to the Apostles, "*We would see Jesus.*" It was looked upon by the executioners as the Face of the vilest, the most abject of men.

Apostles, do you recognize under the filthy spittle the Face that once shone like the sun ? Mary, can you find under this de-