

to the abyss of our nothingness in assuming human nature, "emptied Himself," says St. Paul, "taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of man, and in habit found as a man; He humbled Himself, becoming obedient, even unto the death of the cross" (Phil. ii.: 7 and 8). We adore that divine and loving Heart, every throb and beat of which were for our salvation and happiness, the Heart of Him who broke not the bruised reed, and the smoking flax did not extinguish, who was the friend of publicans and sinners. We adore that divine Heart, which still, in the sacrament of the altar, abides with us in the valley of tears to cheer our exile, to dry up the tears of our sorrow, to heal the wounded heart, to dart into our bosoms the flames of divine charity that glow and burn in it, and to cast on the cold, bleak earth, the fire of love which Christ came upon the earth to enkindle. Well may we cry out with the Church, "*O Felix culpa, quæ talem ac tantum, meruit habere Redemptorem.*" O, happy sin which deserved to have such and so great a Redeemer, whose Sacred Heart abides with us forever. "*O, mira circa nos tuæ pietatis dignatio.*" O, wonderful and ineffable condescension of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for us! What heart so cold as not to return it love for love, what bosom so dead to gratitude and to all the noble impulses of our nature as not to be forever loyal and true to it! If I forget thee, O Sacred Heart, let my right hand be forgotten, let my tongue cleave to my jaws, if I do not make thee the beginning of my joys and the burthen of my praise. "As the hart panteth after the fountains of waters, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God: my soul hath thirsted after the strong living God. I shall go over into the place of the wonderful tabernacle, even to the house of God" (Ps. xli), wherein the Heart of Jesus abides in the sacrament of His love. Such are the sentiments that must fill the soul, such the ardent desires and the vehement longings for Heaven and for God, that must inflame all who contemplate and adore the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and inspire hearts of men with the fire of divine charity. This devotion is also intended to make reparation to our Lord for the cold neglect and ingratitude with which He is treated in the blessed sacrament. But its