

his garments are stripped off ; his sores are reopened and the Blood flows. Jesus stretches himself upon the cross according to the wish of his executioners ; he is fastened to it, with hammer strokes enormous nails are driven in his hands, in his adorable feet ; the Blood gushes out and pours from each wound.

The cross is set up abruptly, shaken roughly ; the nails fastening the body of Jesus lacerate more and more his hands and feet, by enlarging unceasingly his sores during the three hours that lasted the crucifixion.

While that long martyrdom endures, the bloody immolation is continued, completed and terminated by the wounds inflicted either in the crucifixion or in the scourging ; the Blood flows first in abundance, is then shed drop by drop until It is completely exhausted, and until is consummated all that the redemption of mankind required to be operated by the entire effusion of the Saviour's Blood.

Jesus upon the cross, all covered with his own Blood, is the Lamb of God sacrificed in spirit from the creation of the world, immolated in the sight of heaven and earth, from thence given as a spectacle to future generations and ages, proposed since and for ever to their constant meditations ; Jesus and his Blood upon the cross become the ransom of all, the pacification of heaven and earth, the reconciliation of God with men, the Blood of the Covenant which is new, definitive, universal, eternal in all its effects and fruits.

(7) *The opening of the side*: The august Victim was not to retain any particle of Blood that should not be shed. "The soldiers came, says St. John, and they broke the legs of the first, and of the other that was crucified with him. But after they were come to Jesus, when they saw that he was already dead they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers with a spear opened his side, and immediately there came out blood and water." John XIX, 33 and 34.

Whatever Blood remained in the heart flowed first, and the water that followed attests that, literally, not a drop of It remained to be shed.

The adorable body of Jesus, thus bedrenched with Blood, as it lay upon the cross, was taken down in that state, deposited in the arms of his mother, carefully shrou-