



THE OAK TREE and the Heretic of Orleans.



PIOUS tradition relates that during the flight into Egypt the trees of the forest bent low in mute expression of adoring love at the passage of the divine Child tenderly cradled in His Mother's arms. The following fact illustrates how the same marvel was repeated centuries afterwards to confirm the real presence of the same divine Child in the Blessed Eucharist:

Father Pacific of St. Gervais, a celebrated Capuchin preacher, whose eloquence worked several notable conversions, in the City of Orleans and whose reputation for learning and sanctity was widespread, was interviewed by a notorious heretic, one of the most enthusiastic members of his sect, who was eager to engage in religious controversy. Without delay he led the conversation to the discussion of the sacraments, especially the sacrament of the Eucharist. He denied that the person of Jesus Christ is really contained in this sacrament and obstinately maintained that these words "this is My Body" should not be taken in a literal sense, but in a mystical or allegorical one.

The monk endeavored by solid reasoning, by clear and convincing texts of Holy Scripture to convince him of the truth of the Eucharistic mystery, but the heretic

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