

blime expression to the features . . . Grief almost always ennobles the countenance. The instinct of our primitive destiny seeks another dignity besides that of sorrow. The true condition of man is the reparation of his misery : this form never appears clothed in its most beautiful terrestrial, excepting when it takes the expression of this mystery of sorrow and grace, when it receives the imprint of a divine joy, penetrates to the abyss of our sufferings."

Indeed anyone who, when serving Mass, has stood by the priest when he is administering communion, will have noted an extraordinary and edifying spectacle in the upturned faces, wellnigh transformed by an almost divine light ; with, in some instances, a kind of rapt anticipation — a gentleness and patience — a look of a world beyond. The spectacle, for those who do not communicate, seems even to renew a scene from our Saviour's life. He is passing by, as if about to work a miracle. We might fancy ourselves in the streets of Jerusalem, and should seize the opportunity to call to Him with the blind man, " Jesus son of David, have mercy on me ! " There is indeed no actual difference between the two scenes : and wise are they who embrace the opportunity and call upon the Son of man for aid and relief in their difficulty.

It is a quiet week-day morning in some unfrequented chapel where scarce half-a dozen are present. This slender attendance may have the significance of a crowd after all in the *largeness* of devotion in a single pious heart. We may have one such soul kneeling beside us who, as it were, has stolen modestly to the railing, and return with an edifying absorption — unconscious almost of all around her. As she drops into her place again beside us, may we reflect, with a certain awe, that we are more nearly concerned ; that here is a living tabernacle that has just enshrined our Lord ; and that at the moment is going on beside us, within touch almost, secret and all but divine colloquies between her Lord and the soul He has thus visited. Truly we feel this is holy ground, and if we are impressed with the sanctity of his neighbourhood we shall find in it even a more reverential form of the spiritual communion. As the Mass goes on, and the moment approaches, we may borrow from the liturgy of the Sacri-