

course of the Jewish people. in the royal city and metropolis of the kingdom.

He suffered on Calvary, a public, exposed and infamous place, a place of skulls and death.

He did so; that as he died for all, he might be seen by all, that he might be subject to more ignominy and horror, and to signify, that by his death, he would vivify the bones of the dead.

He chose midnight, and an ignoble, wretched dwelling for his birth place to conceal his glory; but he suffered at mid-day, for his greater confusion, that his death might be more notorious, that his misery might be more fully seen, and to shew the supreme ardour of his love, by which he offered himself a holocaust for our sins.

He suffered between two thieves, and in the sight of a great multitude, most of whom were the slaves and agents of the devil.

#### EIGHTH DAY.

What were the sorrows of the blessed Virgin on account of the sufferings of her Son?

They were proportioned to her love, which was of the highest degree, because

1. He was her Son, according to nature, and entirely hers, for she had conceived him without a father; and she, therefore, had the combined love of a father and mother for him. Moreover, she conceived him by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, who is Love itself, and this Divine Spirit stimulated her love.

2. Because he was her First-born, and Only-begotten Son, circumstances which aggravated her grief, as we read in Zacharias. "And they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for an only son;

and they shall grieve over him, as the manner is to grieve for the death of the first-born. (xii. 10.)

3. On account of their wonderful resemblance to each other; thus mothers are wont to love those of their children, who are most like themselves. But Christ, in his entire body and manner greatly resembled his mother; and she, likewise, resembled him in his excellent habits and virtues.

4. On account of the wonderful sanctity and wisdom of Christ. For charity properly regulated, has the greatest love for those that are most holy, because they are most like to God. If to this love, that of nature, which is the greatest possible in a mother for her son, be added, the love is wonderfully increased, and consequently, the grief is more vehement. And if the daughters of Jerusalem bemoaned him so much, because they knew his innocence, what must his Mother have felt, who knew him so well, and so intimately.

5. On account of the inestimable benefits she had received from Christ, for, he that is mighty had done great things for her; and particularly, he made her his Mother, and rendered her worthy of being his Mother. Now, love is grateful, and is always anxious to make a return. How, then, must she not have been affected, at the sufferings of her benefactor, and of such a benefactor!

6. Because her Son was also the son of God. To maternal love then, she added, that of the creature for the Creator. When she was, therefore, interiorly filled with a sense of his divine excellence, and most ardently loved her God in her Son, his unmerited and cruel sufferings must have really pierced through her tender heart.

7. Because the spirit of the blessed Virgin was united with God, and therefore, with her Son. Hence, she must have considered and felt his sufferings,