

How strange all this is ! The majority of the Sacrilegious hearts pretend that they do not believe in the Sacred Presence, and yet they struggle against this little circle of bread as they would against the greatest of their living enemies, piercing It with instruments hoping to reach the heart or crushing It as though they could smother It. " *Mentita est iniquitas sibi* " Ps. xxvi, " Iniquity hath lied to itself " and its insensate gusts of anger and hatred are really, in spite of their efforts to turn it otherwise, one of the greatest proofs of the real presence.

Public crimes against the Adorable Eucharist are horrible to think of, but, after all, precautions can be taken to prevent them. We can lock our Tabernacles with secret devices, make the doors more substantial, or set sentinels to watch for those living demons, but more horrible still are the dark crimes of sinners, who under the cloak of devotion, approach the Holy Table, receive the Bread of angels, and force our Dear Lord to accept the hospitality of their putrified souls, thus changing the Sacrament of life into a token of death. They deceived the priest by lying words in the confessional, and they deceive him at the altar rail by approaching with those who have been purified from all stain. They deceive the assembled faithful who look upon them as the friends of God and they would, if they could, deceive the God whom they outrage.

The kiss of the traitor in the Garden is a poor, weak picture of their crime ; we must in order to understand it, picture the agony inflicted of old upon the unfortunate victims, who, according to the whims of a tyrant, were bound while living to corpses in an advanced state of putrefaction. This is a picture of an unworthy communion

St Paul tells us that the sinner eats his own condemnation. And see in spite of all this, how merciful our dear Jesus is ! These miserable souls who condemn themselves do not meet with judgment at the precise moment of their crime, Jesus waits and even at times works out His interests at the soul's by causing such a pang of remorse that the sinner throws himself upon the