

with men only to teach them to love; he died only to shew them what it is to love; and he is their advocate now in glory only that they may be able to love.

A PATIENT LOVE: Jesus waits for us in spite of our ingratitude; he does not lose sight of us even in our greatest wanderings, but eagerly seeks us.

AN EFFICACIOUS LOVE: Jesus, loving even unto death, has triumphed over sin, death and hell.

A POWERFUL LOVE: Jesus performs the most wonderful miracles in order to dwell with us, to make us live by his life, by nourishing us with his own substance.

AN IMMENSE LOVE: Jesus in his love has comprehended all time, from the creation to the end of the world; all generations have shared in his love, because all stood in need of being washed in his blood.

THE LOVE OF A FATHER, OF A BROTHER, OF A FRIEND, OF A PROTECTOR, OF A SHEPHERD, OF A MEDIATOR: Jesus bears all these names and he eternally performs their various functions, because his love, like himself, is eternal.

What shall I say, O my God! and how can I penetrate the depth of this love with which this heart is inflamed? The Apostle desired that all the faithful should comprehend his holy charity, which is so far above all human understanding.* I perceive his meaning: he knew that my spirit would never arrive at that fulness of light which revealed to him the extent of thy love, O divine Saviour! but he wished that all our faculties should be devoted to this ineffable love; that we should be **CONFIRMED** and **ENGRAFTED** in this love, so that every other knowledge should appear unworthy of our attention.

May I therefore, O Lord, learn today this science of your love! May it pro-

duce in me two effects necessary to salvation—a forgetfulness of myself, and an entire confidence in you! May I be buried in this ocean of love, in order that the world and my passions may not find me any more, and that I may prepare myself in this life to praise and bless you in a blissful eternity. Amen.

The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross.

THIRD WORD.

WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON—BEHOLD THY MOTHER.

John xix. 26, 27.

When St John relates this word of our Saviour, he tells us, that it was addressed successively to his mother, and his disciple; but these names of mother and disciple were not pronounced by Jesus. Nevertheless, there is no doubt, but they were well understood by Mary and St. John. Hence, it is he, the beloved disciple alone, who has related them, like a child, who shews with a kind of melancholy pleasure, his precious portion of the paternal inheritance. But how could they know that Jesus spoke to them? Nothing is more easy to comprehend, and nothing more useful to reflect on.

Mary and John had followed Jesus, even to Calvary. Mary and John were at the foot of the cross of Jesus. From thence their eyes were constantly fixed on the dear and august victim. Mary in particular, had, if we may say so, the entire possession of his love. Standing near the cross, as the Evangelist tells us, who was himself by her side, notwithstanding her sufferings, her soul had only strength enough to sustain her eyes and her eyes looked only to afflict and rend her heart. 'O how sad and afflicted was this blessed mother of an only Son, when she beheld this divine Son in torments!

*Epher. iii. 19.