

of adoration, from its personal union with the Divinity, but we are sometimes more powerfully moved by the contemplation of one part than that of another. In the language of mankind, the heart is said to be the seat of the affections. The soul operates principally upon the heart, and hence we ascribe to the heart the various affections and emotions of the soul. Hence it is, that God accommodating Himself to our human notions, commands us to love Him "with our whole hearts." The Heart of Jesus contains the fulness of the divine and human nature, in it "dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead corporally." (Colos ii. 9.) It loved us from the first moment of the Incarnation, and will love us for evermore. Since the time it was pierced by the lance of the Roman soldier, it was an object of the deep vehement love of His children, and together with the blood and water there flowed with it the full tide of God's graces and mercies on the world. St. Augustine says, the side of Jesus was opened for him by the lance, and that he entered in and abode in the Sacred Heart as in a place of secure refuge. St. Bernard writes in sentiments of most tender devotion concerning the Heart of Jesus. St. Thomas of Aquin pictured that most loving heart as wounded for our sins, and pouring out through the opening its precious blood, to show the excess of His love, to inflame with His love the tepid hearts of His disciples. St. Bernardine of Sienna speaks of this divine Heart as "a furnace of the most ardent love, capable of setting the whole world on fire." "O love!" cries out St. Francis of Sales, "O, sovereign love of the Heart of Jesus! What heart can praise and bless Thee as Thou dost deserve? Let this adorable heart live forever in our hearts."

In adoring the Sacred Heart, we adore Jesus Himself, the figure of the Father's substance, and the splendour of His glory; we adore Him whom the angels and saints adore in Heaven, of whom, when coming into the world, it was said, "let all the angels of God adore him." (Heb. i.: 6). We adore and love our dearest Redeemer, our God and our All, our first beginning and last end, Him, who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and became man, who stooped in-