

soundness therein." There his Blood flowed again from all his members much more abundantly and with much more violence than in his agony.

(4) *The crowning with thorns* : The cruelty of the flagellation is also indicated by the outrages that followed ; the infernal wickedness therein displays itself in the most sacrilegious manner, defying, in broad daylight, both heaven and earth. St. Matthew describes thus the crowning with thorns : " Then the soldiers of the governor, taking " Jesus into the hall, gathered together unto him the whole " band and stripping him, they 'put a scarlet cloak about " him, and plating a crown of thorns, they put it upon " his head, and a reed in his right hand. And, bowing " the knee before him. they mocked him saying : Hail, " king of the Jews ! And spitting upon him, they took " the reed and struck his head. And after they had mock- " ed him, they took off the cloak from him, and put on " him his own garments, and led him away to crucify " him."

That series of outrages presents to our contemplation several bloody scenes ; the garments of Jesus who is all bruised are stripped from his body, and then put back with the same violence that characterized the rest ; twice his sores are revived and his Blood flows in abundance. The thorns penetrate into his forehead, his adorable head, and cause the Blood to gush out, both when the crown is set on, and when it is thrust in further with strokes of reed.

Here again the Redeeming Blood is shed with profusion to atone for our crimes.

(5) *The bearing of the cross* : While ascending Mount Calvary, Jesus continues to shed his Blood for our sake ; with It he sprinkles the dolorous road, he leaves the traces of It on the whole way, especially at the spots where he succumbed.

Those falls under a heavy burden reopened his wounds, increased them, added stil' more, and the Blood was pouring ; the cross itself accelerated the effusion whether by its overwhelming weight, by the exertion and extreme fatigue brought on by it, or by its brusing again the shoulders, the arms, whenever it came in contact with the wounds received in the scourging.

(6) *The crucifixion* : Jesus arrives on Mount Calvary,