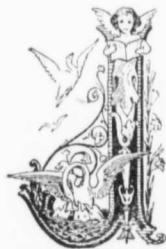




The Silence of Jesus.

"But He held his peace and answered nothing."—St Mark, XIV, 61.



JESUS keeps a silence in the Blessed Sacrament which is far closer than that of the Jewish Roman tribunals. There is no greater contrast to the world in which we live than that offered by the Silent Dweller in the Tabernacle. Men may insult Him, may call His Divinity in question, may perpetrate every species of outrage against Him, and He opens not His mouth. The interests of Holy Church are imperilled, her rights are trampled upon, her servants persecuted, and the Blessed Sacrament attacked — we poor mortals consume ourselves in lamentations and empty words, while Jesus is silent !

We live in a state of feverish excitement with regard to everything, whether good or bad ; we must speak, we must put ourselves forward we must be stirring and moving. But Jesus is silent. So silent is He that were it not for the flickering of the lamp before the Tabernacle we should not recognize His presence amongst us. There is a voice it is true, which speaks from the Tabernacle, and which is felt not heard, as it sinks into the heart of the faithful worshipper who knows how to listen for it, but His sweet voice does not break the outward silence. To be called forth, it needs moreover the presence of a human listener, and how often, alas ! the Blessed Sacrament is alone !

Jesus would fain speak. His Heart is overflowing with sweetness which He would pour lovingly into an attentive