

The Eucharist and the Rosary.

The Sorrowful Mysteries.

Second Mystery.—The Scourging.

Sacrileges.



WHEN Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him." (John 19)

The Sacred Scripture throws a veil over the details of this torture that sets our flesh a quivering but the scene comes home to us most forcibly. We see the pillar, the iron ring at the top of it to which Jesus is attached, and the leathern lash spiked with iron. The soldiers fix their own number of cruel stripes and He is agreed. They may cut to the bone, but in His heart He says : " Cut deeper for every blow you strike resounds in My Father's court and pleads for the pardon of those I love."

The cruel and bloody outrage of the Scourging, cannot be renewed upon the natural body of Christ. By His resurrection He placed it beyond the possibility of suffering, but in His Sacramental life He has delivered it up to executioners just as unmerciful and blood-thirsty as were those of the Pretorium. For over nineteen hundred years now, Christian humanity has been rendering homage to the Eucharist. Yet side by side with this homage, how much ingratitude there is and how many profanations of the Sacred Body ! Pagans, Barbarians, Heretics and Jews have succeeded each other in their dark efforts to ill-treat the world's Redeemer in the Sacrament of His love.

If we have not seen these horrors, we have read of them or heard of them furious hordes rushing into God's Temple, prying open the Tabernacle, brutally open the ciboria, throwing to earth the pure white hosts and trampling them in their rage with their sacrilegious feet, Others furtively steal into the holy place and carry off the Bread of Angels putting it to the vilest use through sheer malice.