



ZEAL OF THE HEART OF JESUS.

ZEAL is the perfection of charity ; if the love of God and our neighbor be compared to a fire, zeal is the flame that springs from it. It is, as it were, a passion which devours the heart,—a sublime indignation, on beholding God, the object of its affections, outraged and misunderstood. The zealous soul would wish to gain all hearts, in order to bring them under the influence of grace. Man's indifference for his Creator, weighs on it like a reproach, and it feels itself urged to awaken him from the sleep of death.

The Heart of Jesus, so full of love for God and man, offers Itself to us, as an admirable model of this holy virtue, our Divine Master came upon earth to implant in the hearts of mankind the sacred fire of love, and He ardently desires that it should be enkindled. In order to preach the Gospel, He crossed, with untiring zeal, the mountains, valleys and plains. On the borders of the rivers and lakes of India His voice was heard, and His teachings resounded in the synagogues. What was His aim in the works of His public life and the supplications of His hidden life? He desired to attract to God, His Father, the hearts of the children of Israel.

With what vehemence He condemns the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, when He exclaims : " Generation of vipers, how will you flee from the judgment of hell?" (Matt. XIII). He reproves with a holy indignation, the pride of the Jews ;