

and gives to every one his just part of responsibility in the crime of His condemnation : “ *He that hath delivered Me to thee hath the grater sin.* ”

I adore Thee in Thy Sacrament of Love in which Thou hast so often endured the trial of human respect and tepidity. I do not want to ask Thee as did Pilate : “ From whom art Thou descended ? ” I believe without hesitation that these obscure appearances hide from my senses the reality of Thy adorable Person. Yes, Thou art the well-beloved Son of the Most High ! In that quality, I proclaim Thee the greatest, the most powerful of all beings. Thy greatness is immensity, Thy duration eternity, Thy height infinity, Thy depth immutability.

Who am I to have the boldness to address Thee ? The angels are not worthy to appear before Thee, and I, a sinner, who have so often deserved hell, how can I dare approach Thee ? Should I not, like Pilate, tremble in Thy presence ? Ah ! without doubt, I acknowledge before Thee my nothingness and unworthiness, but at the same time, I recall that Thou hast veiled Thyself in the Host to encourage me to come to Thee. It is, then, in all confidence that, with heart and lips, I now offer to Thee the double homage of adoration and love.

II. — Thanksgiving.

“ *But Jesus gave him no answer.* ” And why ? Because the Divine Saviour did not wish to put any obstacle to His own death. Let us suppose for a moment that Jesus had imparted to Pilate faith in His divinity, that He had enlightened him on all the truths of the supernatural order, that He had raised for an instant the corner of the veil which hides from earth the splendors of heaven, the throne He had reserved for him if he would be converted, what would Pilate have done ? He would have fallen at Jesus’ feet and exclaimed with Thomas : “ My Lord and my God ! ” Jesus would have been saved, and the human race lost. The Man-God had come to save the world. He desires to suffer and die to redeem it. It was, then, through love for us that Jesus would say not a word to obtain His deliverance.

The Roman Procurator may believe for a moment, as his words indicate, that he is Jesus’ master, that he has in his