

shortly before, he had related the expression of the Jews, which were used whilst he was on the cross, and had recited during his crucifixion the first words of this psalm. Therefore, according to what he had previously said, he implores God not to deliver him from temporal death, but to enable him to triumph over death, by rising again; hence he says, do not forsake me in this last and greatest tribulation, because there is none other to assist me, in so great a calamity.

All christians, whether saints or sinners, should, after the example of Christ, redouble their cries to God, when they find themselves about to be overwhelmed by spiritual or temporal tribulations.

12. Many calves have surrounded me :  
fat bulls have besieged me.

He here relates the cruelty of his enemies, whom he compares to bulls, lions, and dogs. He alludes to the chief priests and pharisees, who insulted him, and attacked him, as it were like bulls, with their horns, when they said, Vah! thou who destroyest the temple of God, &c. and who like hungry lions, with open mouths, roared out for his destruction, saying, Away with him—away with him—crucify him—crucify him, and who like dogs gnawed him, as if by their calumnies, when they said, We have found this man subverting our nation, (Luke xxiii. 2.) and, If he were not a malefactor we would not have delivered him up to thee. (John xviii. 30.) These detractions and false accusations were the cause of his crucifixion, whence he immediately adds, They have dug my feet, &c.

13. They have opened their mouths  
against me, as a lion ravening and  
roaring.

An allusion to the chief priests, the pharisees, and the rabble, who so eagerly thirsted, and cried out for his blood.

When we are subject to similar calumnies and persecutions from men, we should patiently endure them like Jesus Christ, and refer our case to God alone unless when the danger of scandal may require a modest and christian defence.

14. I am poured out like water, and all  
my bones are scattered.

15. My heart is become like wax, melt-  
ing in the midst of my bowels.

16. My strength is dried up like a pots-  
herd, and my tongue hath cleaved to  
my jaws; and thou hast brought me  
down into the dust of death.

In these verses Christ declares how he treated the cruelty of his enemies, and says, that he offered no resistance to their violence, but that throughout all his torments he had displayed humility, patience, and meekness, according to Isaiah l. 6, I have not turned away my face from them that rebuked me, and spit upon me, and (1 St. Peter ii. 23.) when he was reviled, he did not revile; when he suffered, he threatened not; but delivered himself to him that judged him unjustly. Therefore he says, I am poured out like water, that is, I have made no resistance, but allowed myself to be treated as my enemies pleased; and all my bones are scattered; all my strength has vanished; not that I have really lost my power, but that I am unwilling to use it, and have permitted my enemies to exercise theirs against me, according to what he said in St. Luke xxii. 53. This is your hour and the power of darkness.

My heart has become like wax melting in the midst of my bowels.—I have not only shewn external patience and