

THE VOICE OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

You were not redeemed with corruptible gold or silver, ... but with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb unspotted and nudefiled

1 PET. 1. 18, 19.

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THE PRECIOUS BLOOD IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH (Continued)

(3) *The scourging*: It was then a time of destruction and murder, of unbridled tyranny and unequalled barbarity. Men seemed to have for object to slaughter one another. There was no respect, no regard for human life; everywhere blood flowed in abundance under the slightest pretext or through a criminal caprice. An example of that cruelty had been given recently, when Herod, in the midst of a banquet, ordered the bloody head of Saint John the Baptist to be brought in a dish, thus complying with the request of a young princess who was most greedy for such a jewel.—We have another feature of the customs of the age in the scourging. That horrible torture, which was prevalent all over, every day caused a large number of unfortunate victims to expire under the lash.

Jesus did not hesitate to chose it; he accepted and supported all the rigours thereof. It was inflicted upon him by what was most brutal in the Roman legion so much accustomed to carnage, and hell itself came to add its instigations and all its furiousness. That gives the measure of the atrocities perpetrated by such executioners, impelled by such an influence. The Gospel presents to us Jesus with his body bruised and mangled all over under the scourge, for we read in St. Mark: "Pilate delivered up Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified." In fact, from the feet to the head, he was wholly imbrued with Blood, and no part of his body was left without wounds, thus verifying literally the prophecy of Isaias: "From the sole of the foot unto the top of the head, there is no