

The "Bishop of the Blessed Sacrament."

(*Bishop Maes of Covington.*)

II — HOLY COMMUNION.

Always an advocate of frequent Communion, the decree of Pius X on Daily Communion met with the immediate and complete response of Bishop Maes. By pastoral, sermon, instruction, and conference; in church and in school; in confessionnal and in private interviews, the Bishop never lost an opportunity for forwarding the prescriptions of the immortal '*Sacra Tridentina Synodus*'. He patiently met the objections against the Communion of children, and just as patiently reasoned with those who, educated under the "*Old regime*," still persisted in adhering to the erroneous principle of reverence through fear.

"Were we to consider only the holiness of God present in the Holy Eucharist, and the weakness and waywardness of man who receives Holy Communion, we would certainly be tempted to fall down at Jesus' feet like St. Peter, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord?' But when we consider why Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist, when we remember that He came for the benefit of sinners and not for the just, when we recall His positive command to eat and drink,' and His threat 'unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood you shall have no life in you,' we may be astonished at the stupendous miracle, dumbfounded at God's mercy and humility, just as the Apostles were, but like them, we must be true to the Master and say, 'Lord, to whom shall we go but to Thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life'... His arguments for daily Holy Communion were compelling; his advice to the people: 'Do not spare your priests; go to confession; keep them in the confessionnal. Go to holy Communion until their arms drop through weariness.' Such and similar encouragement awoke a stirring response in the strong-hearted Catholic people.... The

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