

Among the Spanish Catholic population, were a certain number of Indians, who were still pagans, and whose cupidity coveted the brilliant gold and silver vases, where the precious Body of the Lord was deposited. Knowing the little chapel was less guarded, in this quiet spot they burst open the door, abstracted the contents of the Tabernacle, which consisted of a Ciborium and a pyx ; and behold the sweet Son of the Virgin Mary, in His Sacramental garb in the brutal hands of pagans, in the sacrilegious hands of robbers.

Possessed of the Sacred treasures, hoping to avoid human Justice, they fled across fields in order to reach the vast forests of the mountain, where there would be less danger of their apprehension.

What was transpiring while criminal hands held the Divine Captive of the Host ? Perhaps the Justice of God made the lightning of His sword appear to their guilty eyes. Perhaps Jesus rebuked them with a word, as centuries previous, the soldiers at Gethsemane, whatever the cause the sacred vessels became so heavy they were a burden to carry, the robbers hoping to lighten their weight opened them, scattering their contents ; the Sacred Host fluttered an instant, then fell and rested, on a small hillock peopled by an immense swarm of ants. How often the Eucharistic God comes to us, finding us indifferent to His coming it was not thus with the little ants. Scarcely had their Divine Creator reposed in their home, than all the republic, impelled by a new and miraculous instinct began preparations to respond as much as they could to the honor of such a visit.

Some stationed themselves around the ant-hill, and gathered finely polished grains of sand, and placing it around the Sacred Hosts as if to form a pyx ; others went to an old palm tree, and with sharp edged-claws detached pieces, which they pushed, rolled, or dragged with wonderful courage, to the hillock ; there acting harmoniously they placed those slips of wood, in long straight lines ending in the center of the hillock, thus drawing around the pyx, where the Sacred Hosts were a graceful Monstrance.

Their work finished instead of going to rest, they grouped themselves in black and compact masses around