

TWO BEAUTIFUL FESTIVALS.

The feast of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart are but one week apart. Both festivals stir up in our souls the holiest emotions and impulses. The distinction and difference between devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to the Sacred Heart is explained in Gallifet's "The Adorable Heart of Jesus." "In instituting the feast of the Blessed Sacrament," says the writer, "the object was to render to Jesus Christ, abiding amongst us, the adoration, the gratitude, and the love which are so justly due to Him in this ineffable mystery. It is in order to satisfy those obligations that the Church has instituted the festival of the Blessed Sacrament with its solemn octave, with procession, decorations, and all the pomp and magnificence with which this feast is celebrated. But in that of the Sacred Heart the principal object of its institution is to make reparation to Our Lord for the insults His love has received in the Holy Sacrament through the ingratitude of men — a reparation which Jesus Christ desires should be directed to His Heart, which is, as it were, the source and the seat of this love." Nearly every devotion practised in the Church has a twofold aspect, the one material and visible, giving a title to the devotion; the other spiritual and invisible, which is the implicit object of the devotion. In the devotion to the Sacred Heart the exterior or visible object is that Heart united to the Person of the Divine Word made flesh. The spiritual and invisible object is the ardent and all-absorbing love of Jesus.

As the heart of a man represents to us, in an ordinary way of speaking, his sentiments, his virtues, his good qualities, his whole interior, so the adorable Heart of Jesus is a representation of all that Godhead to which it is united. It symbolizes His whole interior, with His thoughts and acts; His patience, His humility, His zeal, His meekness — in a word, all His virtues.