

And although on account of the infinite divinity of the sufferer, one drop of blood would have sufficed, yet he was pleased to pour it out to the last drop, that his redemption might be plentiful and superabundant; and that, as St. Bernard says, (Serm. 3 de Nativ.) from the greatness of the remedy, I might be able to estimate the magnitude of my danger.

Moreover, as the whole of man was wounded, so he wished to suffer in every thing, that he might apply a suitable remedy to each of our vices; his nakedness to our cupidity, his ignominies to our pride, &c.

He suffers for his enemies, even for his very murderers, that he might obtain for them, from God, the pardon of their Deicide; and thus he prayed for them to his Father on the cross; nay, he excused them, and said, that "they knew not what they did."

He suffered for all mankind in such a manner as to offer up his torments to his Father, for each. He, therefore, applied them to me in particular, and I can say with St. Paul, "He that loved me, and delivered himself for me."—Galat. ii. 20.

#### FIFTH DAY.

With what sentiments did he suffer?

With those of the most ardent love, of which St. Paul writes, "That you may be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth; to know also the charity of Christ, which surpasseth all knowledge." Ephes. iii. 18. 19.

The proofs of this affection are, that he ardently desired to suffer for us. I

have, said he, a baptism, wherein I must be baptized, and O how I am straitened until it be accomplished! (Luke xii. 50.); that he embraced his sufferings when they drew nigh, whereas, there are many who profess a desire of suffering, but flee from it when it approaches—that he was prepared to suffer even much more than his most cruel and wicked enemies could invent or inflict. "He was offered, because he himself willed it." Isai.

#### SIXTH DAY.

What virtues did he exhibit in his Passion?

He particularly wished to display all virtues. He came on earth as the master, teacher, and model of virtues, and thus at the end of his life, he was desirous of giving, as if in a compendium, a specimen of all. He merited those virtues, for us by his Passion; it was, therefore meet, that by the very acts of those virtues he should merit them for us.

Many of his virtues were before obscured; they are now brought forward and openly displayed, as if he were leaving them to us as his last will, according to what he said of charity. "This is my commandment."

He exercised those heroic acts, the practices of which he terms blessed—poverty of spirit, even to his garments, for he hangs naked; and humility, which is so nearly allied to poverty, being made "the reproach of men, and the outcast of the people." (Ps. xxi. 7.) Meekness; "who, when he was reviled, did not revile, when he suffered, he threatened not, but delivered himself to him that judged him unjustly. (1 Pet. ii.