

us good. How often do we accept the chalice we see in the distance and promise to drain its dregs, but when the hour comes to prove our fidelity "to watch and pray" with our uncomplaining Redeemer we are found asleep—profoundly apathetic to all that should interest us most.

Especially pointed is the reproach when we apply it to our vigils before the Tabernacle; for longer and gloomier and more desolate than Gethsamene's loneliness is that of the Eucharistic solitude of Jesus. A few rare passers-by may drop in to bend the knee before the Holy Presence in cities where a numerous population is grouped about the churches, but how many places do we see with abandoned Temples!

We meet a priest in the early morning setting out with a little acolyte to celebrate the greatest of all religious acts, the Holy Sacrifice, and are there many who seem to realize that Jesus is there waiting to do for their souls what He alone can do and would do—to offer Himself again a willing Victim to His Heavenly Father for it. In less than an hour all is over; the priest retires, the acolyte goes his way and Jesus is left alone,—alone in the day hours and alone through the long night hours. The little Sanctuary Lamp flickering out its unconscious homage is the sole representative of the Christian population that should be prostrate at His feet in lowliest, perpetual adoration. Why, we ask, does our dear, abandoned Saviour stay with us at all? It takes a God to forgive what we cannot find a single pretext for extenuating in our ordinary dealings with friends. Why does He stay with us? It must be for the sake of some loyal souls who understand the necessity of compensating by perpetual homage the forgetfulness of the rest; and all day long they succeed each other in representing Christian humanity before the face of the Adorable Victim who honors us with His perpetual presence. Their eager longing to amend is not confined to the day; in the silence and gloom of the night they come, one by one, "to watch one hour" with the Ever watchful Lover of souls.

While granting us all a liberal amount of time to sleep and to repair the wearied system, God does not consent