

OF THE

# WAY OF THE CROSS

OFFERED

TO ALL PIOUS PILGRIMS

BY

the Franciscan Fathers Custodians of the Holy Places.



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# MEDITATIONS

SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR PILGRIMS

MAKING

# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

THROUGH

THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM

Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people by His own blood, suffered without the gate; let us go forth therefore to Him without the camp, bearing His reproach.

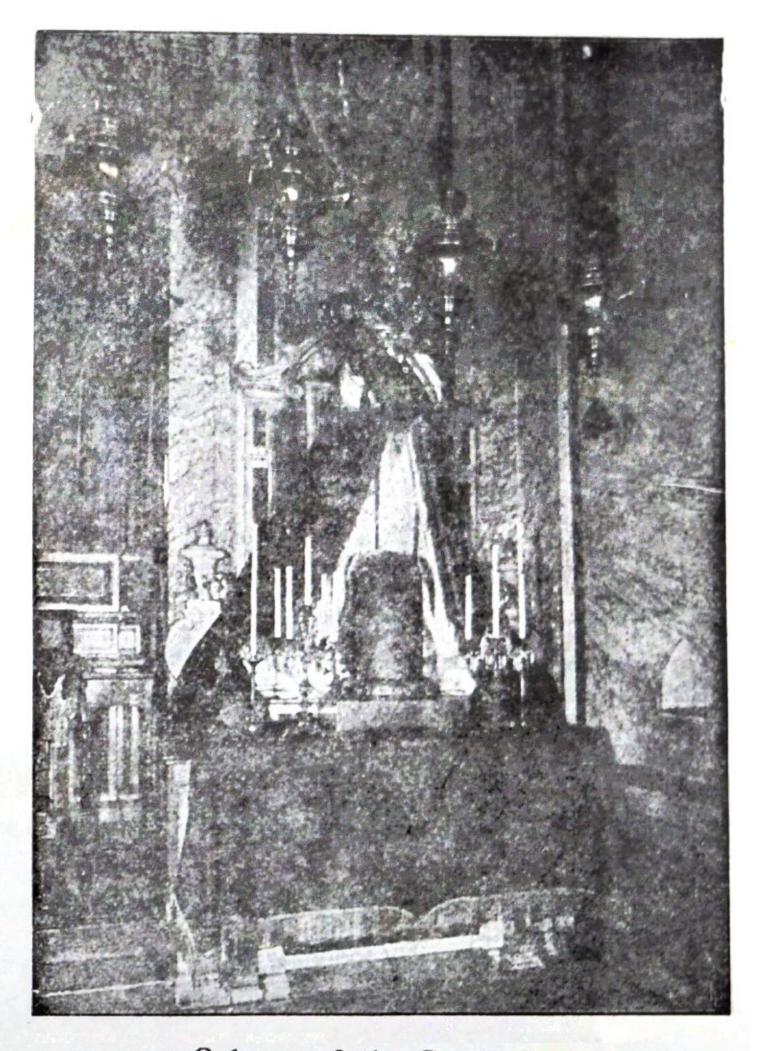
Hebrews XIII: 12, 13.



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Franciscan Press - JERUSALEM





Column of the Scourging.

Venerated in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

#### PREPARATION.

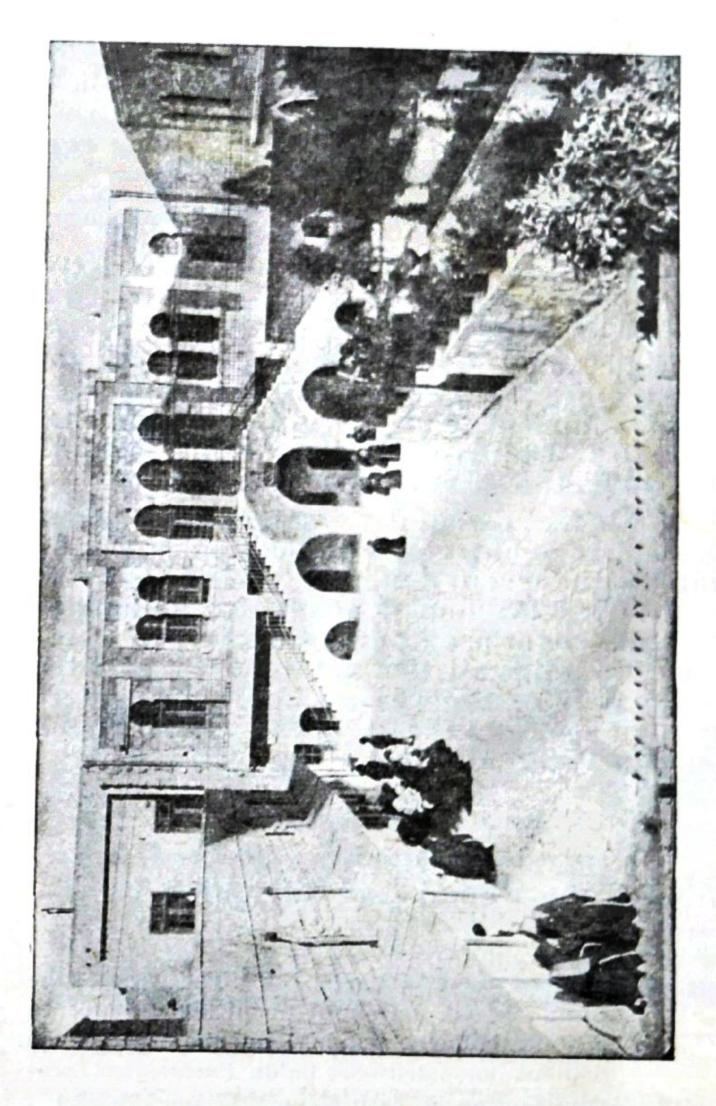
To make the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem, after the example of Mary and countless Saints, is: (1) to follow the bloodstained footsteps of Jesus laden with His Cross through these very streets, «from the Praetorium of Pilate to the summit of Calvary»; (2) to behold with bodily eyes the road along which He laboriously journeyed from the place of His condemnation to that of His death and burial. What a wondrous — what an exceptional grace!

How many Christians throughout the world, more deserving than I, ardently long at this moment, but in vain, for this rare privilege. Thank God, it is mine! Thank God, it has been reserved for me!

With feelings of deepest gratitude then, in a spirit of interior recollection and animated by a fervent devotion towards Christ's most bitter Passion, I resolve to undertake this holy exercise, purposing, with God's grace, to gain all the indulgences granted to the Way of the Cross, applying one to my own soul and the others to the suffering souls in Purgatory.

Note. — The pious exercise known as "The Way of the Cross" is old, but until about the seventeenth century both the number and the order of the Stations fluctuated (See Baldi, Enchiridion Locorum Sanctorum, Jerusalem, 1935, pp. 754-783.)





### FIRST STATION.

# Jesus is condemned to death.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here in the Prætorium of Pilate, the spot on which we are now standing, Jesus was questioned, scourged, crowned with thorns, scoffed, impeached and declared innocent, yet formally delivered into the hands of His enemies by the cowardly Pilate; whilst outside, but two paces away, the bloodthirsty mob, maddened by their fanatical leaders, filled the air with execrations and shouts of: «Crucify Him! Crucify Him!»

Our Divine Lord allows it all, nay, even

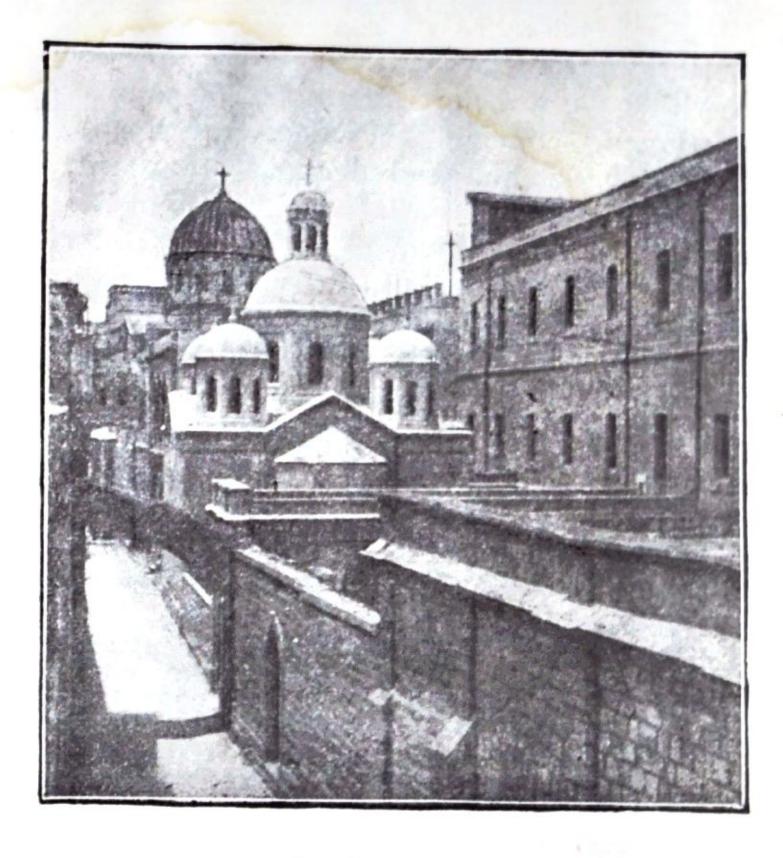
welcomes it.

May not the life of man on earth be called a Way of the Cross? Were not we by nature children of wrath? Have not I also been condemned to death?

O Jesus, following Thy example, I resign myself to the Divine Will, and in expiation of my sins I accept my sentence.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. R. Amen.



 $2^{\rm nd} \ STATION$ 

### SECOND STATION.

# Jesus receives the Cross.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.
- Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here on this pavement beneath my feet, once called Lithostrotos, Jesus received the Cross. Having lifted it eagerly and embraced it lovingly, He placed it willingly on His shoulders.

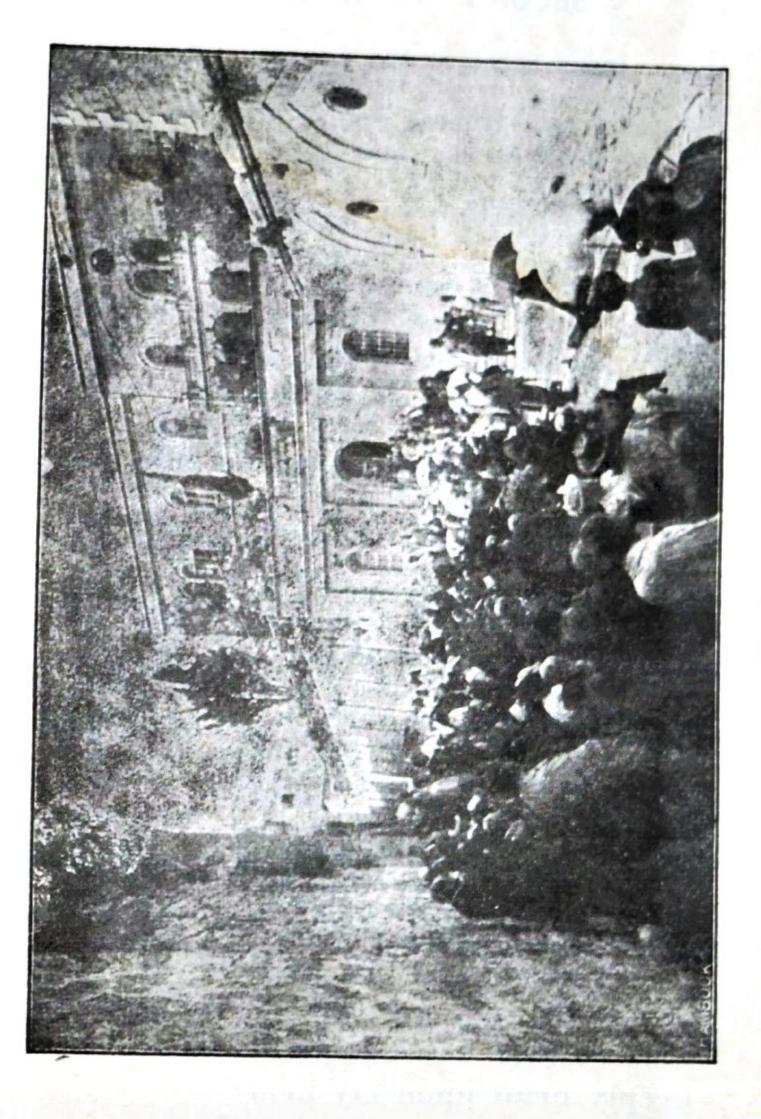
The Cross which I must carry is symbolized in the physical, moral and spiritual trials of life, under their varied and everchanging phases... hardships, sorrows, temptations, interior desolation, gloomy forebodings, bodily infirmities ...

All these and like trials, O Jesus, I gladly accept and, after Thy example, boldly place them on my shoulders.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.





#### THIRD STATION.

### Jesus falls the first time.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.
- R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here at the lower end of the broad, stonepaved way which led from the fortress Antonia, Jesus, worn out by pain and loss of blood, sank to the ground under the weight of the Cross; but by a superhuman effort He quickly recovered Himself.

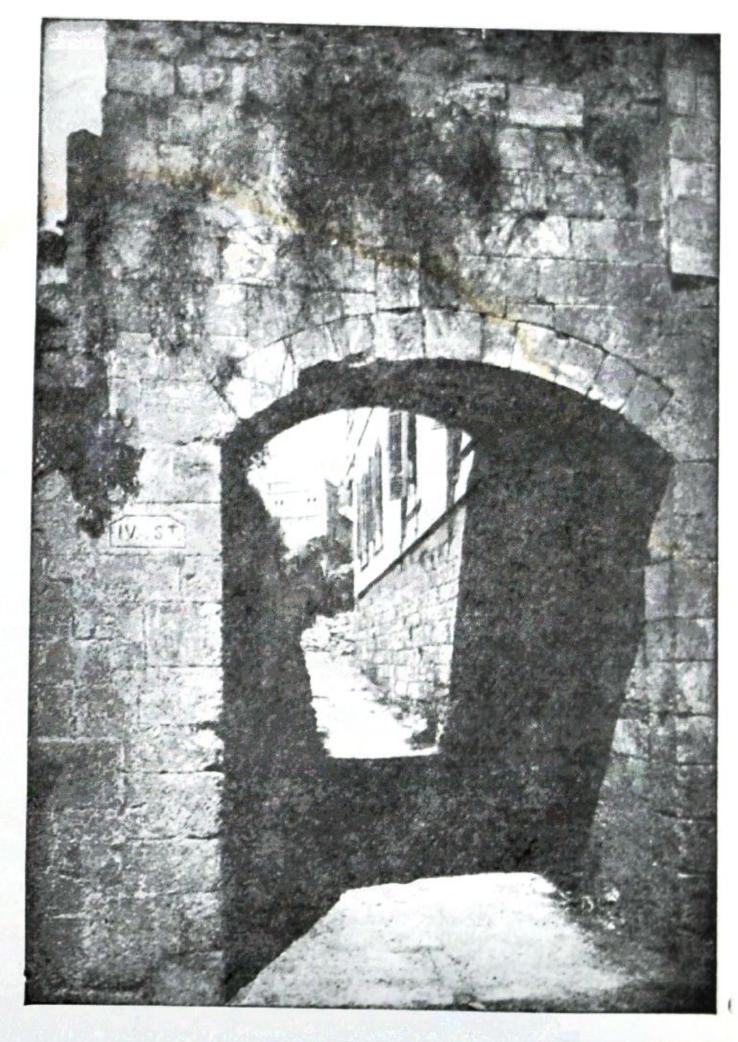
This first fall of Jesus on the way to Calvary brings vividly before me my first fall into sin resulting from the absence of due watchfulness rather than from malice or depravity of heart.

O Jesus! by the merits of Thy faintness at this Station, grant me pardon and mercy.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.





4th STATION

#### FOURTH STATION.

# Jesus meets His afflicted Mother.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.
- R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here at the fourth Station the appearance of Jesus — His adorable features disfigured with sweat and blood, His eyes dimmed, His hair dishevelled, His flesh torn, — added to the fierce imprecations of the turbulent rabble and the savage brutality of the coarse soldiery, combined to work on Mary a feeling of such intense horror and grief, that she fell back fainting into the arms of the holy women near her.

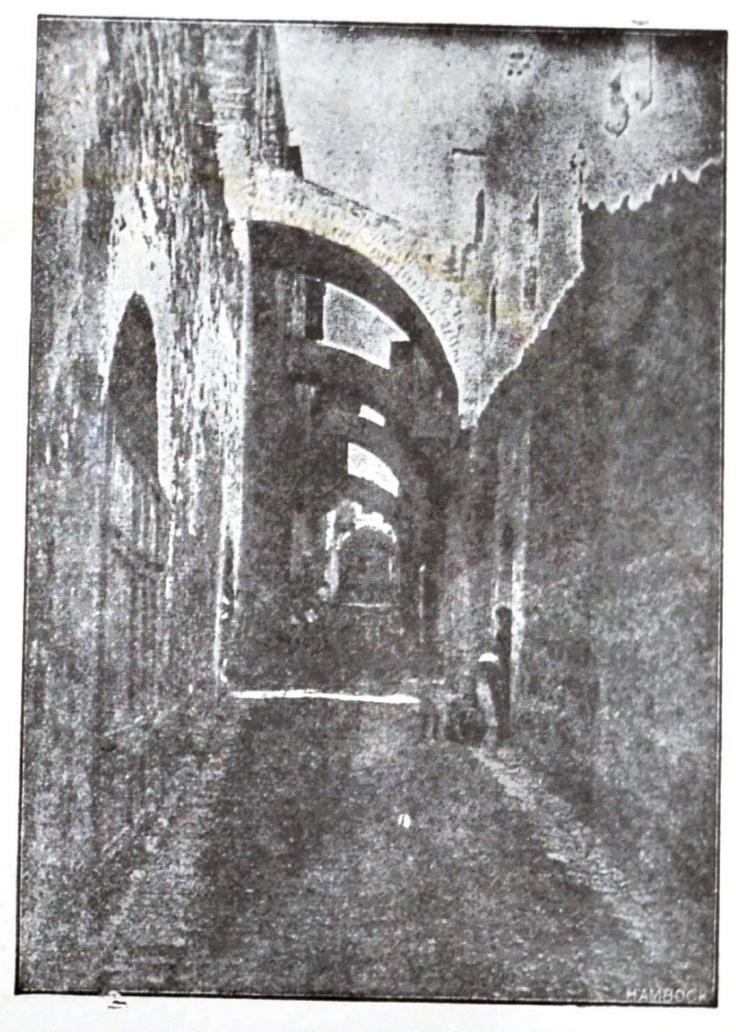
My heinous sins, O God, have disfigured the beauty of my soul and have made it hateful to Jesus and Mary.

Refuge of sinners, pray for me!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.





5th STATION

#### FIFTH STATION.

# The Cyrenean helps Jesus to carry His Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here Simon of Cyrene on his arrival from his day's work was made to carry the Cross after Jesus.

Jesus, all bruised and disfigured, still lives on amongst us under the form of suf-

fering humanity.

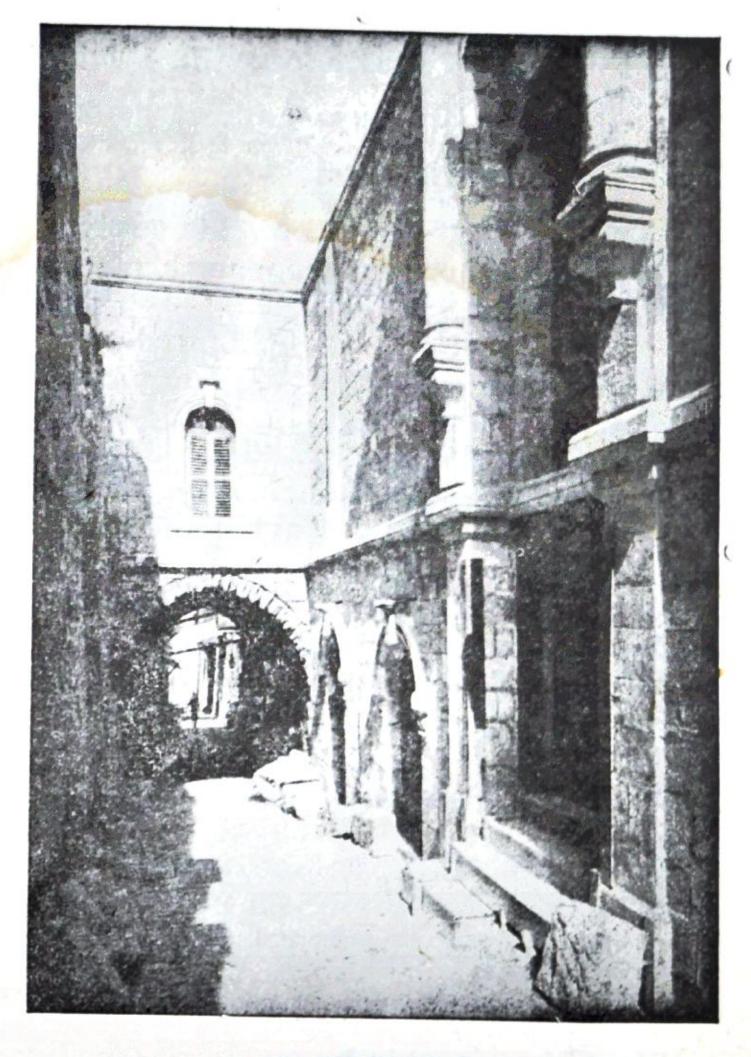
Let us then be charitably disposed, after the example of the Cyrenean, and help Jesus to carry his Cross by relieving the poor, visiting the sick and consoling the afflicted. «As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to Me.»

Let us be kind and helpful to all in trouble, sympathetic and indulgent. It is our bounden duty to hold out the right hand of fellowship to all in temptation: «Considering thyself lest thou also be tempted.»

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.





6th STATION

#### SIXTH STATION.

# Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

The traditional subject here presented is a noble act of courage, and verily, if ever there was need of daring, it was here, it was now.

A tender-hearted woman breaking through the ranks of the infamous soldiery and drawing near to Jesus wiped His face with a cloth. What an example! and lo! her reward was not delayed; the impression of His sacred features appears on the cloth!

Veronica typified those fervent and fearless Christians, who, trampling under foot all human respect, console, by their steadfast constancy to principle and by their courageous fidelity to duty, the Heart of Jesus, abandoned, outraged and blasphemed. Such is their fortitude! And their reward is the sweet assurance and the firm hope of the never-ending felicity of heaven hereafter.

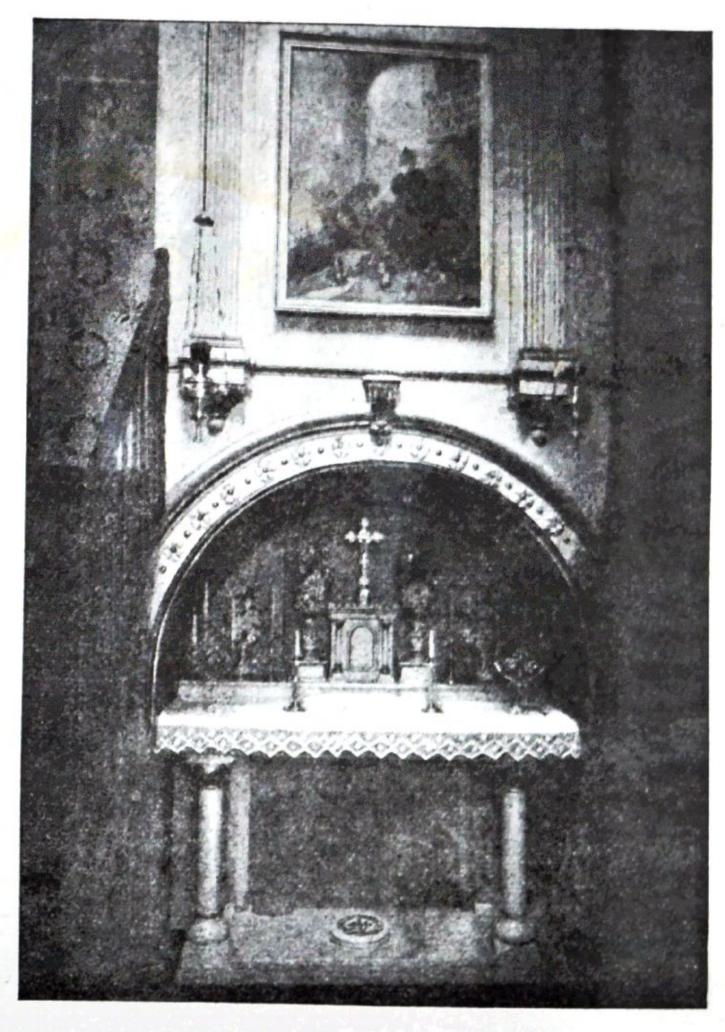
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls.. R. Amen.





7th STATION

#### SEVENTH STATION.

## Jesus falls a second time.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here at this Station there stood one of the city gates, and Jesus, passing through it, fell heavily a second time. How painful soever this second fall must have been, Jesus had strength enough to rise and journey onward to Calvary.

During our lifetime we have added to the lesser defects of early days the more deliberate sins of youth and the heinous transgressions of maturity — numberless impulsive acts of idle curiosity, human respect, vain-glory and, God alone knows, what other hateful trespasses, notwithstanding good resolutions, abundant graces and holy Sacraments.

O Lord Jesus! by Thy sufferings at this Station, pardon me, I beseech Thee, and grant me the grace soon to conquer the more grievous of my offences.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls... R. Amen.





8th STATION

#### EIGHTH STATION.

# Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Our suffering Redeemer had barely left the city, when the loud wailing of some women lamenting His sad lot appealed to Him. Turning towards them, He said: «Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not over Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.»

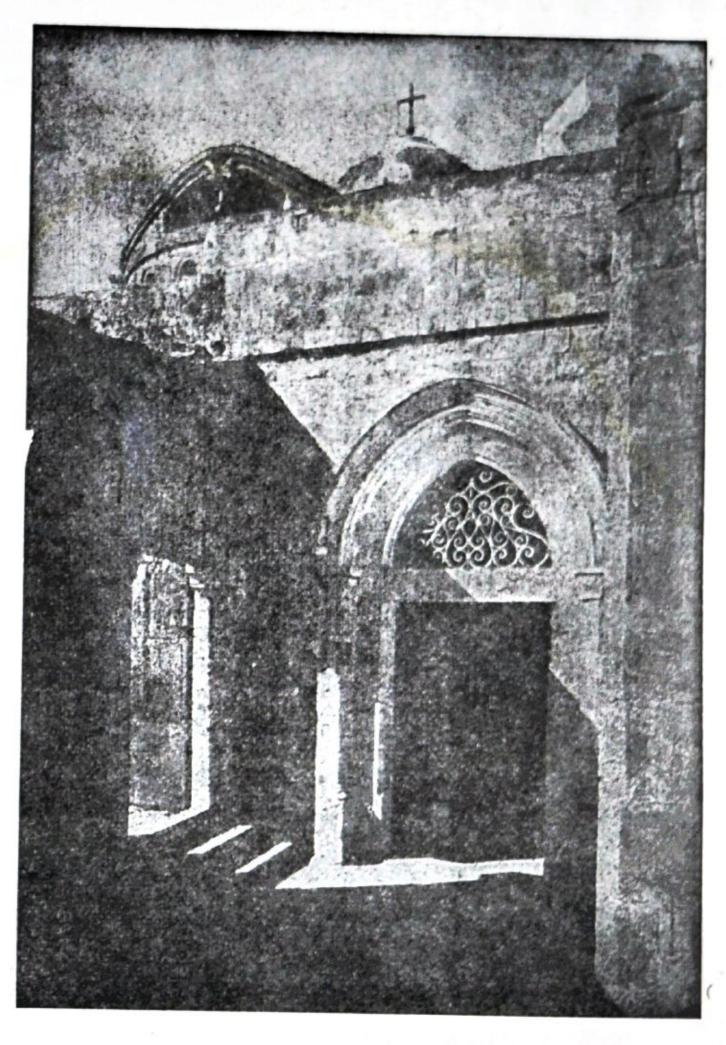
It is unnecessary to weep over Jesus, hated and despised though He be, — He towers far above His enemies; nor should we be distressed at the adverse fortune of Holy Mother Church, persecuted and vilified all the world over, — she is immortal. Let us rather weep over those misguided men who, by their impiety, draw down upon themselves the wrath of God, both for time and eternity.

O Jesus, in Thy great mercy «take not revenge of my sins, neither remember my offences, nor those of my parents.»

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.





9th STATION

#### NINTH STATION.

### Jesus falls the third time.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here at the foot of Calvary, His strength failing Him, the Divine Victim falls a third time.

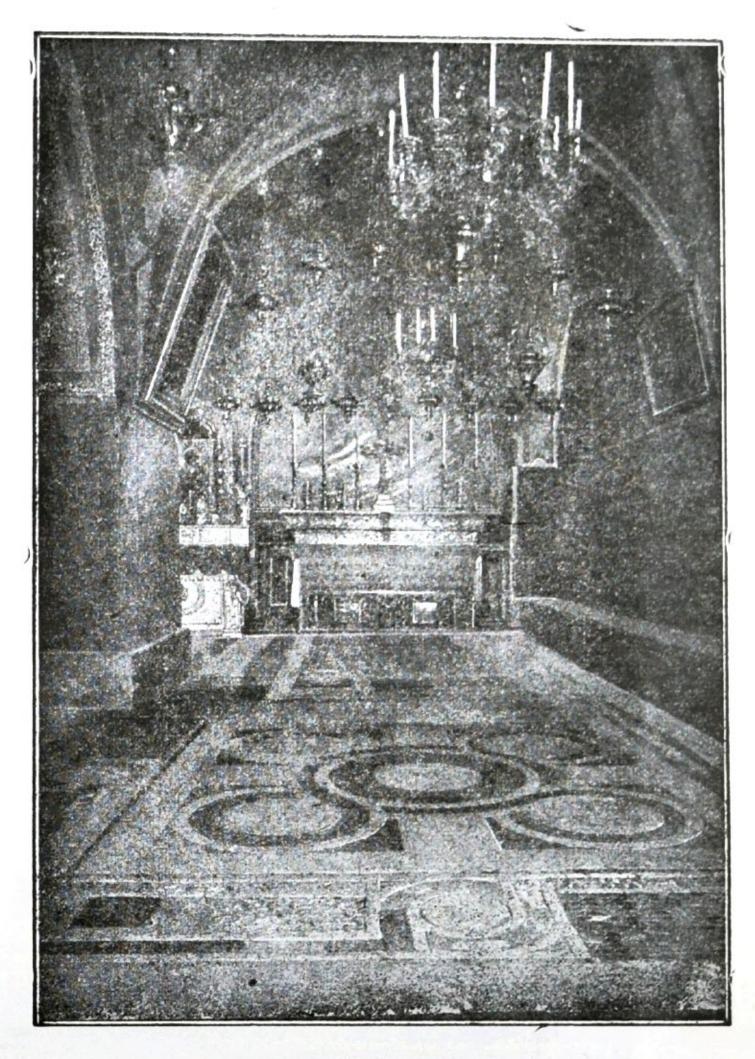
This last fall of Jesus brings to my mind the dread hour of my final illness, when those around will seek to comfort me with vain, empty words and, perhaps, even strive to deceive me as to the nearness of death.

Their affectionate care will prove fruitless, their remedies unavailing, science itself brought to nought; one thing alone will, please God, be present to my mind, — an earnest longing to receive the Last Sacraments.

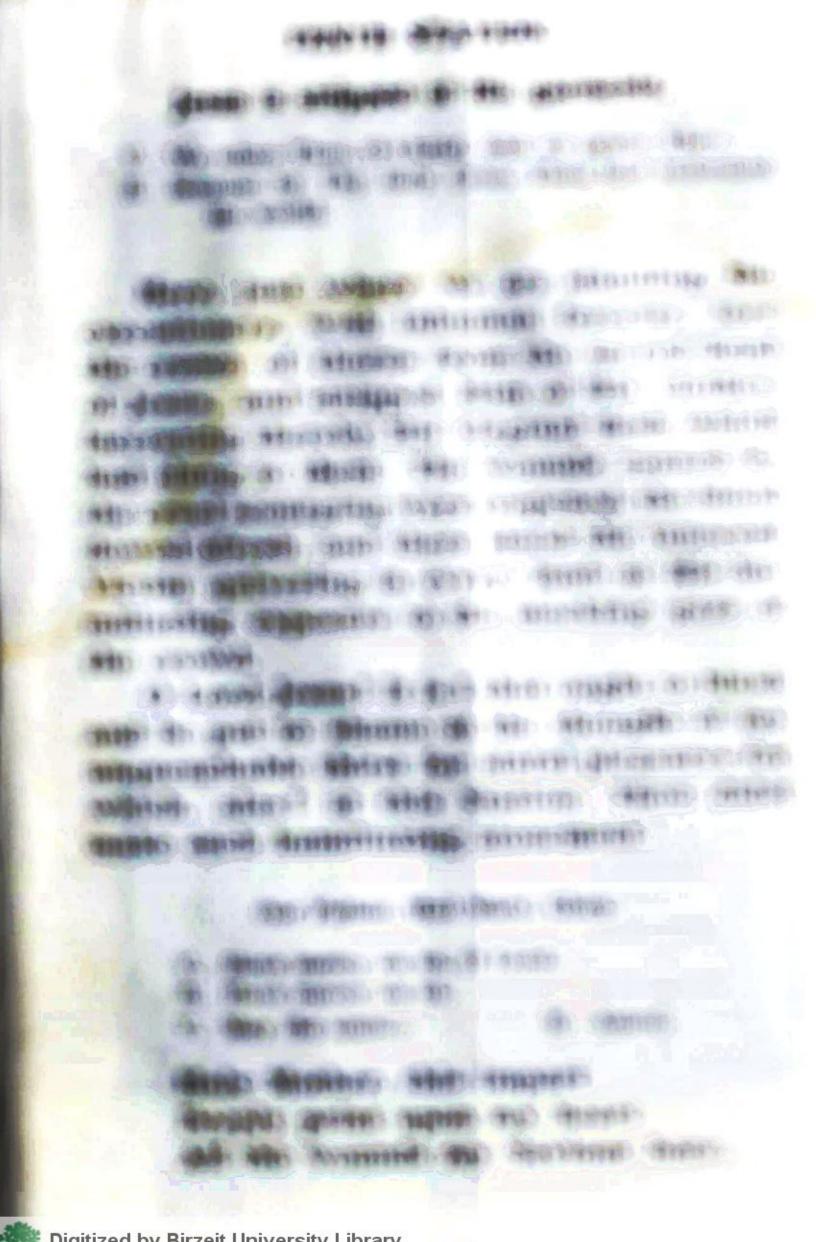
O Jesus, by the merits of Thy third and most painful fall, guard me against all mistaken kindness of relatives and friends; at that awful moment, grant me, O Lord, the grace to receive the last rites of Holy Mother Church worthily.

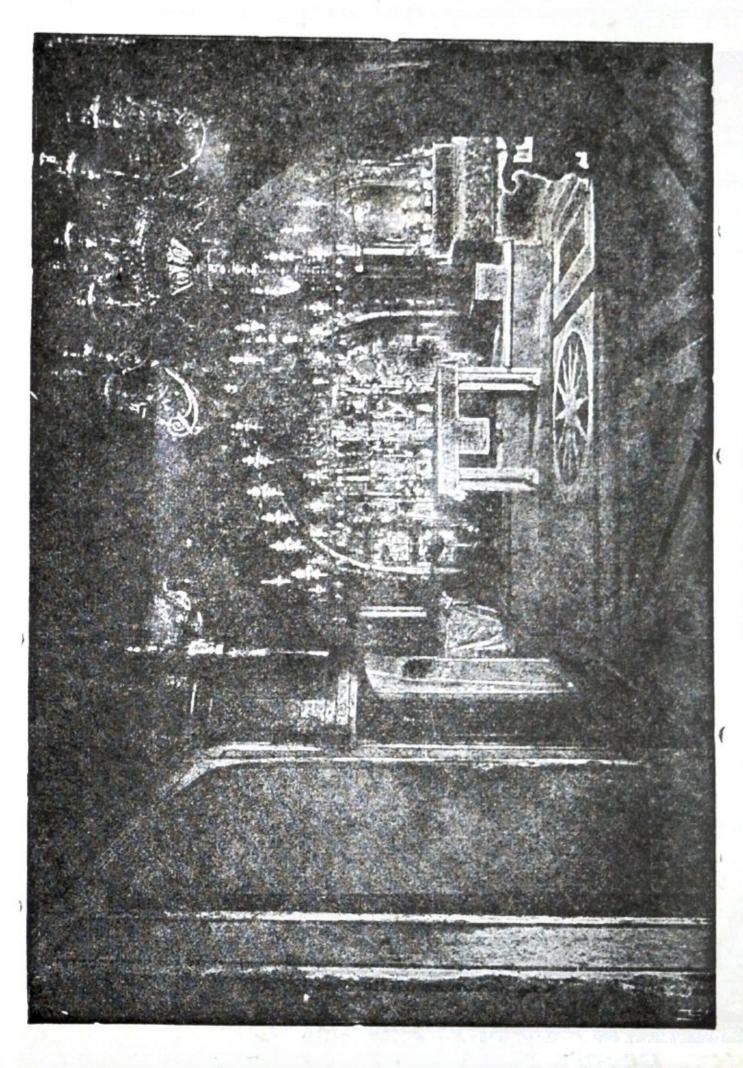
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

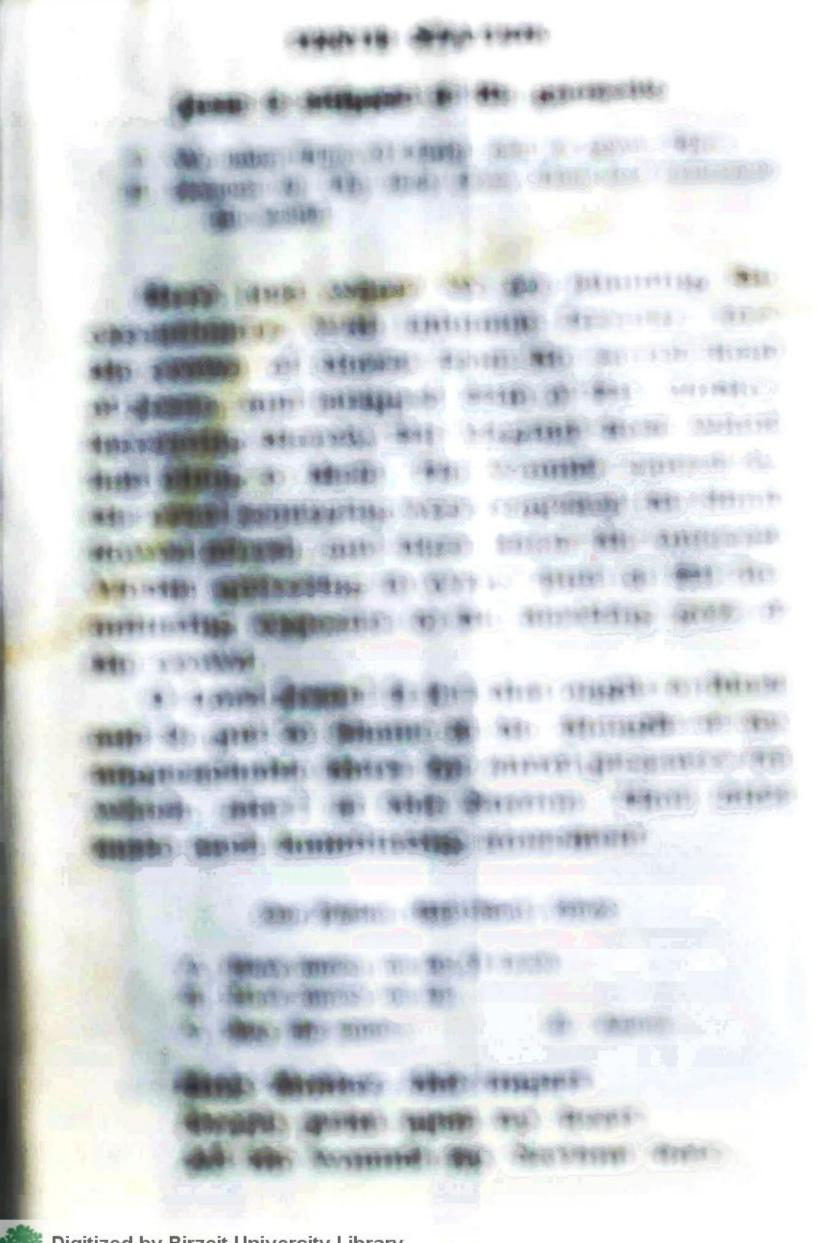
- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.

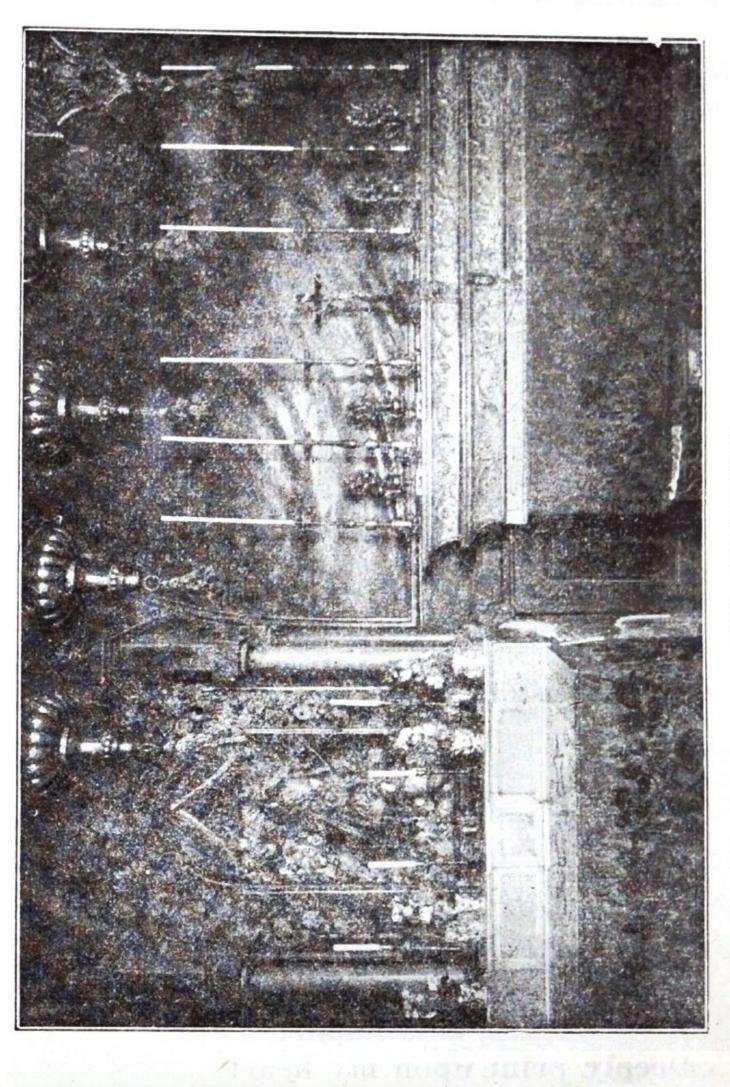


10th STATION









#### TENTH STATION.

# Jesus is stripped of His garments.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here, just where we are standing, the executioners, with inhuman ferocity, tore the crown of thorns from the sacred head of Jesus, and stripped Him of His clothes, lacerating thereby His virginal flesh which had clung to them. The wounds caused by the cruel scourging were reopened, the blood flowed afresh, and there stood the innocent Victim quivering in every limb at His humiliating exposure to the mocking gaze of the crowd.

O Lord Jesus! It is I that ought to blush and be put to shame at the thought of my unquenchable thirst for sinful pleasures for which, alas! at this Station, Thou didst make such humiliating atonement.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.





13th STATION

#### ELEVENTH STATION.

### Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

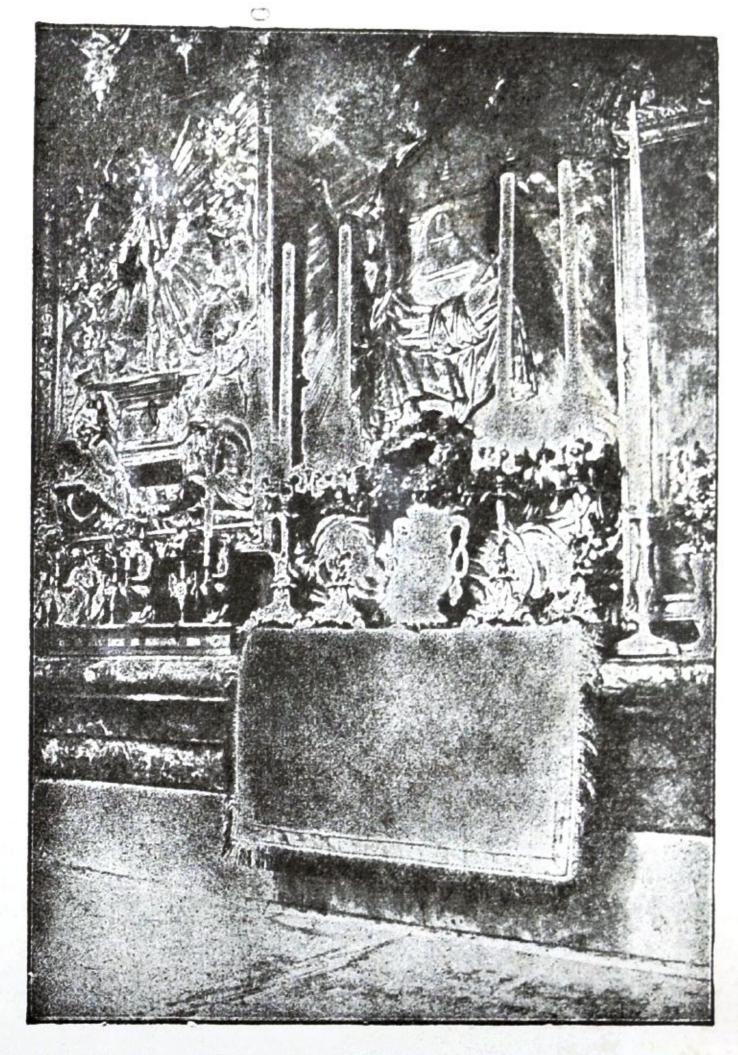
Here on this very spot Jesus laid Himself on His last resting place, offering His sacred hands and feet to be nailed to the Cross.

The mighty blows of the hammer rent the air with rhythmic thud as the nails sank deeper into their bed of flesh, spurting, with each succeeding blow, a fresh gush of blood from His already weakened and lacerated body. Not a word of complaint does He utter! He suffers in silence, perfectly resigned to the will of His heavenly Father.

O Christian soul! when thou art bruised with anguish, when thy members are rent by bodily suffering, when thou art well-nigh crushed under the calumnies of men, when thou art abandoned by all, O think of Calvary! Remember thou must be crucified with Christ! Be patient, gentle and resigned, saying: «Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.»

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

- V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
- R. Have mercy on us.
- V. May the souls... R. Amen.



14th STATION

#### TWELFTH STATION.

## Jesus dies on the Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here Jesus died on the Cross. Consider, O my soul, and realise the deep meaning of the scene. Thou art actually kneeling on the Sacred Mount, witness of the agony and death of the God-Man! This is Golgotha! In this cavity the Cross of Jesus was raised! Here the seven last words were spoken, here the Good Thief was instantly pardoned, and heard the welcome sentence: «Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with Me in paradise.»

Here, as a crowning grace, Mary was given to us as our Mother. Here, finally, Jesus, God's Eternal Son, my Creator, my Saviour and, erelong perhaps, my Judge, expired

uttering a loud cry.

O my soul, art thou still unmoved at the remembrance of such love? Then, indeed, thy state is to be pitied, for thou art less susceptible than the massive rocks which burst asunder at that loud cry!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls... R. Amen.



#### CONCLUSION.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

«And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints that had slept arose and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection came into the holy city and appeared to many.»

In God's own time, I also shall come to life again — God grant it be to a life of glory, but that happy consummation depends largely on myself...

On my return home the impression I must make is, that I have in very deed become a new man, — a better Christian.

Strengthened in faith and devotion, quickened and moved by the grace of God, enriched with the treasure of indulgences, cleansed and purified by Penance, comforted by the Holy Eucharist, I must die to sin, live to God... dedicating myself to prayer, good works and the edification of my neighbour.

Five times Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory for the intention of the Holy Father.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord. R. Have mercy on us. V. May the souls... R. Amen.

#### Holy Mother etc.

Once Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory for the benefactors of the Holy Land.

## THIRTEENTH STATION.

# Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus taking down the corpse of Jesus from the Cross, laid it in the arms of His sorrowing Mother. Mary received the priceless gift, and having devoutly kissed each open wound and composed the sacred features, she reverently closed His eyes.

The touching preparations for burial being over, the sad procession sets out slowly for the Tomb. It was already dark when Joseph, along with the other disciples present, bore the body to its grave, and the Mother of Sorrows supported by the Beloved Disciple and the holy women followed in its wake. Tears of compassion were in the eyes of all, but in their hearts had sprung up a firm hope in the near-approaching resurrection.

When those we love are taken from us, let us beware of immoderate grief, «even as others who have no hope.» The true Christian, following Mary's example, will be resigned in bereavement, assured that in heaven he will be reunited to those he loved on earth.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

R. Amen. V. May the souls...

### FOURTEENTH STATION.

# Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Here in the Sepulchre the mortal remains of Jesus rested for three days.

This Sepulchre so firmly sealed, the stone rolled before its entrance, the linen cloths, the guard on duty, were all meant to be so many obstacles to the resurrection of Jesus.

But He made no account of them, - at the appointed time, He issued forth glorious

and triumphant over death.

The Sepulchre is a figure of sin, more especially the habitual state of sin; the corpse represents the guilty soul; the cold, heavy stone its woeful state of indifference; the seal its abuse of grace, rendering it callous to every good desire and gradually leading it to final impenitence. The linen bands are its evil habits; the guards, the passions within and the agents of Satan without.

Let us however, like Jesus, rise again and by our good-will, aided by grace, break our fetters, and come forth cleansed and purified to die now no more!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

R. Amen. V. May the souls...