NOTRE DAME, Quinquagesima Sunday, 1882.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN
IN JESUS CHRIST:
The Gospel we read at Mass to-day has always been to me a subject of serious reflections. How is it, that when our Blessed Lord had spoken to the Apostles, so clearly, so emphatically, of the sufferings and death He was about to meet in Jerusalem, as the Sacred Text has it: "Then Jesus took unto Him the twelve and said to them: Behold we go up to Jerusalem, and all things shall be accomplished which were written by the Prophets concerning the Son of man; for He shall be delivered to the Gentiles and shall be mocked, and scourged, and spit upon: and after they have scourged Him, they will put Him to death, and the third day He shall rise again."

How is it, I ask, that the next verse reads as follows: "And they understood none of these things," and this word was hid from them; and they understood not the things that were said?"
The Apostles often visited the temple; for Isaias had written more strikingly, of the sufferings and death He had spoken to the Apostles, so clearly, so pathetically, of the sufferings and death He was about to meet in Jerusalem. And yet, the Apostles knew nothing of this. They understood not the things that were said. Were they so blind, so deaf, so obtuse? No; it is not possible; they could not fail to understand, if they had but considered the Scriptures. "They did not know what to make of it, until it was all accomplished; and then they understood the things which were spoken before them." And yet, how do they understand not these things?

Oh, how weak and obscure is man's mind until the ways of Divine light shine upon it! The first woman, formed out of Adam's side, was the figure of the Church, to be drawn out of the side of Jesus, expired on the Cross on which He was crucified: Abraham, lifting up his hand to sacrifice his only Son to God, typified the Eternal Father, delivering His own Son to the death of the Cross. Abel, slain by his brother Cain, represented Jesus Christ, who was to be killed by the Jews, His brothers. The scape goat, sent out yearly, from the city, and afterwards to be killed, figured Jesus Christ, who was to suffer and to die outside of Jerusalem, except for a moment.

Joseph himself, sold out by his own brothers, was another striking figure of the same. And yet, they understood none of these things! Jesus had spoken of Him so clearly that He seemed to have written more as an Evangelist than a Prophet: "We have seen Him—despised, and we have considered Him as a prophet in a ignominious manner. Surely, He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows; but He was wounded for our iniquities—He was afflicted because it was His own will, and He opened not His mouth."

Had not David spoken of His hands and of His feet, paraded to the Cross? "They have hanged My hands and feet. They have numbered My ribs, and My bones. They have parted My garments among them, and upon My vesture they cast lots." The Apostles knew all these prophecies and yet, "They understood none of these things." From such a wonderful ignorance let us learn, ourselves, how little we know, naturally, of the deep and elevated doctrine or science of the Cross. God alone can reveal its rich treasure and beauty. The doctrine of the Cross is the most mysterious secret of Divine wisdom. It is a cause...