

## THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

(Continuation.)

THE Blood of Jesus Christ preserves us from the exterminating angel: The demon dares not approach; he realizes that a hidden force will repel him; the christian is marked with a divine seal. Through a recent sacramental or spiritual Communion, by which the Saviour's Blood has been communicated to us, we escape a multitude of accidents.

This Blood is a principle of strength in combat. When one recurs to It with the necessary conditions, It ensures victory. In the combat with the dragon, this cry was heard in heaven: "They overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb." Apoc. XII. II.

Let us dip our weapons in this Blood. Saint Edmund, having fought against a violent temptation, through the Precious Blood, obliged the demon to acknowledge what it was he dreaded most, Satan replied:—"what you have just invoked."

Saint Chrysostom says:—"It puts devils to flight." And certainly when holy water has this effect, will not Our Lord's Blood be still more potent?

What insured victory to the Redeemer will always render us participants in His triumph: *In this sign shall thou conquer.*

It is the seed of virtue. It bestows Chastity: "the wine springeth forth virgins." (Rach. IX. 17.) It destroys concupiscence and thus sanctifies the body. Through the Blessed Eucharist, mortals become chaste, for it emits a celestial odor which dispels the pestilential exhalations of the flesh. It is when imbued with this Blood, which sprang from the Virgin of virgins, that we joyfully consecrate our virginity to God, and often an aspiration towards the Divine Blood suffices to extinguish all voluptuous flames.

It appeases anger. When the fire of rage is burning, a few drops of Blood from the meek Lamb of God will of their own virtue, calm wrath by recalling the patience