

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD AND ANGELS
AND MEN.*(Selections from Faber.)*

III.

OUR Heavenly Father calls his creatures to gather around the marvellous streams of the Precious Blood, and there to adore his wisdom and his love. Who could have dreamed of such an invitation, which grows more astonishing the more we penetrate its mystery?

The angels wonder more than men, because they better understand it. Their superior intelligence ministers more abundant matter to their love. From the very first he invited the angels to adore it. He made their adoration a double exercise of humility,—of humility towards himself, and of humility towards us, their inferior fellow-creatures. It was the test to which he put their loyalty. He showed them his beloved Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, in its Sacred Humanity, united to a lower nature than their own, and in that lower nature crowned their King and Head, to be worshiped by them with absolute and unconditional adoration. The Son of a human mother was to be their Head, and that daughter of Eve to be herself their queen. He showed them in that Blood the source of all graces, which they had through creatures to spread over all the mankind. So the angels began to adore and to sing the song of the Lamb and the glory of his Precious Blood, as they do even now in the splendors of Heaven.

The Precious Blood belongs to men. Much more, therefore, does God invite them to come to its heavenly baths, and receive therein not only the cleansing of their souls, but the power of a new and amazing life.

Every doctrine in theology is a call to the Precious Blood. Every ceremony in the Church tells of it. Every sermon that is preached is an exhortation to the use of it. Every supernatural act is a growth of it. Everything that is holy on earth is either leaf, bud, blossom, or fruit of the Blood of Jesus. To its fountain, God calls the sinner, that he may be lightened of his burdens. There is no re-