

FIRST SPLENDORS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

(Selections from Faber.)

II.

2 UR dearest Saviour did not take upon himself the nature of angels, but he made himself one of us, and took the large share of God's severity upon himself, leaving us our little share in faith, hope and charity.

We see the kindness of Jesus everywhere ; it is at the bottom of everything and the explanation of it. Wonderful Jesus ! that was the name the prophet Isaias gave him: " He shall be called wonderful." How sweet it is to be so hemmed in by the tokens of his love that we cannot turn to any side without meeting them ! Yet his love would be sweeter to us if we could only repay it with more love ourselves.

Amongst the grandeurs and magnificences of creation, our little, humble earth is the native place of the Precious Blood, the most magnificent of all. God made the earth as well as the stars, and shaped it, and adorned it, and filled it with living things ; and then looked upon his work, and it shone forth beautifully, and he blessed it, and declared that it was very good.

There was no sin. To God's eye, earth was all the more beautiful because it was innocent and the dwelling-place of innocence. Then sin came. We know how. Why ? we cannot understand. Every one must keep his own place ; it is the creature's place to believe, adore and love.

Sin came. With sin came many fearful consequences. This beautiful earth was completely wrecked. It went on through the space in the sunshine as before ; but in God's sight, and in the destiny of its inhabitants, it was all changed. Jesus could no more come in a glorious and un suffering incarnation. Mary would have to die ; and, though she was sinless, she would need to be redeemed with a single and peculiar redemption, a redemption of prevention, not of rescue. She also, the immaculate Mother and Queen of creation, must be bought by the Precious Blood. Had not Jesus come, the case of men