

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH

I.

THE BLOOD OF THE SON OF GOD.

In Jesus Christ, in one only person, there are two perfect natures : the Divine nature and the human nature. There is, in Jesus Christ, the Divine Person only, there is no human personality. The human nature of the Saviour, —His body and His soul— belongs to the Divine Person.

The blood forms an essential part of the human body, it sustains the life of the body here below ; so it was with Jesus Christ.

The sovereign dignity of the body of Jesus Christ and of His blood springs from their union with the Divine Person ; it is the body and the blood of the Son of God, belonging inviolably for all eternity to the Divine Person.

Hence the preciousness, the virtue, the infinite value of that divine Blood : it claims and must ever claim the profound adoration of every creature, because, since the Incarnation, it is and must ever remain the blood of the Eternal Lord made man, the Son of God and the author of all being.

“ In the beginning,” said saint John, “ was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God All things were made by Him : and without Him was made nothing that was made And the Word was made flesh (and blood), and dwelt amongst us and we saw His glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth ” (John I).

By the shedding of His blood, poured forth to wash away our sins, His plenitude of grace has been imparted to us, —His blood having purchased for us true grace and having reconciled us fully with God, —which grace and reconciliation the blood of victims under the old law could but prefigure and announce beforehand.

II.

WORDS OF JESUS.

In describing the last supper, saint Mathew expresses himself as follows, in relation to the Precious Blood :