

THE GREAT NEED OF JESUS AND OF HIS SAVING BLOOD.

(Selections from Faber)

VI.

The human soul needs Jesus.

IT is very difficult to feel as we ought about eternal things : we are surrounded by sights and sounds of this short earthly life. We judge things by their earthly importance. When we try to bring home to ourselves or to others the immense importance of eternal things, we find ourselves in a difficulty. Time alone enables us in some degree to realize them, and they must grow into us by frequent prayer and long familiarity.

We are placed in the same difficulty when we want to realize truly the necessity of the Precious Blood. It is more necessary than we can say or think. What would come of being without it is inconceivable by us.

The most recollected saint and the most thoughtful theologian are not able to realize how much and in what ways they are indebted to God, receiving from him, living upon him, using him, and immersed in him.

So it is in the spiritual world with Jesus. It is a wonder that he ever came among us. Yet he is indispensable to us. We could in no wise do without him. We want him at every turn, at every moment. It is the wisdom of life, as well as its joy, to be always feeling the great need of Jesus. A true christian feels that he could no more live for an hour without Jesus, than he could live for an hour without air or under water. There is something delightful in this utter dependance upon Jesus. It is our only rest, it is our only liberty in the world. It is the bondage of our imperfection that we cannot be directly and actually thinking of Jesus all day and night. Yet it is astonishing how near we may come to this. Our very sleep at last becomes subject to the thought of Jesus, and saturated with it. It is part of the gladness of growing older, not only that we are thereby drawing nearer to our first sight of him, but that we feel our dependance upon him more and more. We have learned more about him. We have had