

“made us a kingdom and priests to God and his Father,
“to him be glory and empire for ever and ever.

“Behold he cometh with the clouds and every eye
“shall see him, and they also that pierced him. And all
“the tribes of the earth shall bewail themselves because
“of him” (Apoc. 1, 4-7).

Those last words announce the final distress of those who have pierced him, that is of all the tribes of the earth and of all men who have continually shed his Blood, through their obstinacy in not profiting by it.

IV. THE BLOOD OF JESUS JUSTIFIES MEN.

In the fifth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle exposes, in sublime terms, the work of our complete justification, produced by the redeeming Blood :

“Being justified therefore by faith, says he, let us
“have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
“By whom also we have access through faith into the
“grace, wherein we stand, and glory in the hope of the
“glory of the sons of God. And not only so : but we
“glory also in tribulations knowing that tribulation work-
“eth patience, and patience trial, and trial hope. And
“hope con'oundeth not : because the charity of God is
“poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Ghost who is
“given to us. For why did Christ, when as yet we were
“weak, according to the time, die for the ungodly ? For
“scarce a just man will one die : yet perhaps for a good
“man some one would dare to die. But God commend-
“eth his charity towards us : because when as yet we
“were sinners, according to the time, Christ died for us :
“much more therefore *being now justified by his blood,*
“shall we be saved from wrath through him. For if,
“when we were enemies, *we were reconciled to God by*
“*the death of his son :* much more, being reconciled, shall
“we be saved by his life. And not only so : but also we
“glorify in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom
“we have now received reconciliation.” (Rom. V, 1-11.)

V. THE PRECIOUS BLOOD SANCTIFIES THE CHURCH.

The Blood of Jesus, which justifies in particular every submissive soul, has the full virtue of sanctifying the whole of mankind, all the nations as well as one single