

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

(Continuation.)

THE Redeemer's Blood is applied to our souls in the Sacrament of Penance. Here is the curative pool. Do you desire to be healed? Plunge into this bath. "The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John I. 7.)

What a motive for contrition is the remembrance of all that our Lord suffered in shedding His Blood to obtain our pardon. How dearly our forgiveness was purchased!

It is always through Blood that expiation is made. Without It no remission of sin. In absolution It streams down on our souls. With what devotion we should receive It.

Saints have been gifted with a clear vision of the Saving Blood falling on their souls at that moment. One used to be eager to receive It, feeling the need of being cleansed from all stain. She would implore her confessor to purify her soul saying:—"Father, quickly, the Blood of Jesus Christ!" and an ecstasy was the result of absolution.

We, the dispensers of this Blood, must administer It to others. With what respect, what prudence, we should apply It to souls in the sacred Tribunal!

The various sacraments are the channels by means of which It is diffused. From It the baptismal water, the chrism of Confirmation and the oil of Extreme Unction derive their virtue. These matters are a symbol, as it were, beneath which It is hidden to signify a special virtue It produces.

All graces emanate from the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, who, in shedding It, merited them for us. Not a favor has been received by us until it cost Him some drops of His Blood.

It is an exhaustless store, whence we draw the wealth of God's friendship. In the words of Saint Ambrose, "The Blood of Christ is precious gold."