

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

(Continuation.)

THE Precious Blood imparts corporal strength and vigor on certain occasions. We see this in the Martyrs who drank It before the combat, like soldiers who are purposely inebriated to a degree for the sake of exalting their courage.

It is a generous Blood which seeks to pour Itself forth. Blood calls for blood. Saint Agnes said It embellished her cheeks ; and, in their maladies, the Saints have often been strengthened or cured by It. To a great number of pious souls, It proves sensible refreshment.

It is a dew. *I will be as the dew, Israel shall spring as the lily and his root shall shoot forth as that of Libanus* (Osee XIV. 6).

When the soul is parched, vigor and spiritual fertility are restored to her by the outpouring of this dew ; *as the flower of roses in the days of spring, and as the lilies that are on the brink of the water* (Eccles. L. 8).

Every grace is diffused with this dew, and by It all virtues are developed.

The Blood of Jesus produces charity for our neighbor. In passing through our hearts, It diffuses the sentiments of Jesus Christ Himself, and to what a degree did not Our Lord love men ? Could we fail to love those whom He redeemed and nourishes with His Blood ! Men become our brethren chiefly through the Eucharist. How our zeal should be enkindled by considering that sinners are so dear to Jesus Christ, that He gave His Blood for them, and desires nothing so much as to give It to them as drink ! We must satisfy this divine passion. "*Treat him as a brother ; because in the blood of thy soul thou hast gul-ten him.*" (Eccles. XXXIII. 31)

The Divine Blood is consolation in sorrow. Jesus Christ gives those who are ~~sad~~ the beverage of His Blood. *Give wine to those who are grieved in mind ; let them drink and forget their want and remember their sorrow no more.* (Prov. XXXI. 7).