

rugged path to Calvary ; finally, the Redeemer of the world breathing His last sigh on the Cross.

The first effusion of Our Saviour's Blood was the proof of His infinite love for the human race. What should we give Him in return ? Is it not our duty to humble ourselves in His presence, confessing, to our shame, that His Blood has fallen on our souls as on barren and rocky ground since they have borne no fruit.

But let us never lose confidence in the divine mercy, but rather give ourselves completely to Him who suffered for us from the first moment of His existence on earth. He exacts a spiritual circumcision of all His followers. This consists in the retrenching of all irregular affections and desires, in complying religiously with all the requirements of God's holy law and in submitting patiently to all the trials He may send us.

In this consists the veritable circumcision of the mind and heart. It is a spiritual blood-shedding and merits its reward, for it true to say : " Give blood and you will receive spirit."

This explains why the Circumcision of Our Lord has such an important share in the work of Redemption. His atoning Blood was, in that mystery, shed for the first time ; and through It alone are souls ransomed : " Without Blood there is no remission of sin."

Glory throughout all ages to this Adorable Blood ! And to mortals, pardon, mercy, light and enduring peace, assured results of a generous and faithful circumcision of mind and heart.

Written for The Voice of the Precious Blood.

" DILECTUS MEUS CANDIDUS."

(Cant. 5.)

I

White, as the lonely snow-fields
 Beneath the arctic night,
 White, as the whitest lily
 That e'er beheld the light ;