

the Institute. The Italian anti-Catholic press and its foreign echoes described her as a 'nun,' the Institute as a 'convent,' and lied bravely and brazenly in their effort to fasten the 'scandal' to the Catholic Church. A prosecution followed; and an ex-priest-associate of the Fumagalli creature was, on vague, flimsy, and contradictory evidence, sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. As we stated at the time, on the authority of the Italian press and legal experts, there were at the time the gravest grounds for the opinion that there had been, in the case of the ex-priest, a miscarriage of justice. The well-informed journal, *Rome*, tells the sequel of the story: A few months ago when the court at Milan passed a heavy sentence on a priest accused of a horrible crime in connection with the Fumagalli Institute, we expressed the conviction that a terrible miscarriage of justice had taken place. That view has received very striking confirmation during the last week. The father of the chief witness against the priest, being at the point of death, called three witnesses, and in their presence made a solemn deposition that his daughter had committed perjury in her evidence, and that she had been constrained to do so by persons who were determined to secure the conviction of the accused. The child herself on being examined by the same witnesses confirmed her father's deposition, and declared that she and the other witnesses against the priest had been cajoled and terrorised to swear to things that were absolutely false. It may be taken for granted that a new trial will now be ordered, and will result in the complete acquittal of the unhappy victim—and thus will disappear the only shadow of a foundation for any of the charges brought just a year ago against the priests and religious of Italy.

## THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

### IMPOSING CEREMONIES AND PROCESSIONS

In our last issue we gave an account of the ceremonies and meetings which took place on the first and second days of the Eucharistic Congress in London. Our Home files to hand devote considerable space to reports of the concluding ceremonies, meetings, and processions. It might be said that no event of recent years has attracted so much attention, this being due in a measure to the great gathering of Church dignitaries from all parts of the world and to the action of the Government in prohibiting the procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of London at the instigation of a few narrow-minded bigots. The principal secular papers of London devoted considerable space to reports of the Congress, especially the *Daily Telegraph*, which, in its issue of September 14, gave eleven columns to reports of the proceedings on the previous Saturday and Sunday, and in addition had a leading article condemnatory of the weakness of the Government in giving way to the clamor of a few extremists.

On Friday morning the proceedings were begun with Pontifical High Mass in Westminster Cathedral, the celebrant being the Archbishop of Utrecht. The sections met at 10.30, and all of these were well attended. The most of the foreign visitors crowded to the one sitting in the Caxton Hall, where the French language was used. The appearance in the streets of so many prelates and priests attracted indeed a great deal of public attention in Westminster.

#### Reception by the Papal Legate.

On Friday evening the Cardinal Legate held a reception in the Albert Hall, when there assembled in that building the most cosmopolitan gathering ever seen within its walls. A correspondent thus describes the scene:—The Papal Legate raised his hand to bless the crowd as he went along, and to some who knelt to kiss his ring he smilingly extended his hand. Proceeding to the platform beneath the great organ, he took his seat on a dais, which had been prepared for the occasion. Other Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, and prelates of every rank, with great numbers of priests, soon reached the hall and came streaming in with the immense crowd of the laity.

The scene becomes more and more brilliant; the colors more vivid, the movements more lively. Here one might see black-robed Jesuits such as Father Bernard Vaughan or Father Donnelly recognised and greeted by friends on all sides. Elsewhere a white-robed Carmelite is in earnest conversation with a Capuchin in brown. They had been friends in youth, but oceans had separated them for long years. Now they meet, and their enthusiastic cordiality is pleasant to behold. The aged Cardinal Primate of Spain comes in. Nunners crowd around

to get his blessing. Other dignitaries come along. Ireland has representatives at every hand. Cardinal Logue as he goes to join the Legate is besieged by friends and admirers. In another quarter the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, is to be found chatting with old acquaintances. French priests abound. French laymen, too, are here in plenty. So are the bright, vivacious French ladies. In fact, ladies from every land are well in evidence. They are attired in unique fashion for a London assemblage, wearing high-necked dresses and in the majority of cases a black veil or mantilla.

#### A Distinguished Gathering.

They talk in English or French, Italian or Spanish—a few in all four. Some are quite ready to tell that the Spanish Cardinal wears the band of Isabella the Catholic, the Order of the Golden Fleece and the medal of Alfonso XIII., and that the prelate whose breast glitters with distinctions is, though Bishop of Nottingham, a man of military fame; and their opinions of men and things, freely given, are clear-cut and piquant if not always correct. The great Republic of the West has various representatives, foremost amongst them that popular member of the Sacred College, Cardinal Gibbons. Round him many assemble, for he is well known in Europe, and ever has something fresh and suggestive to say on events of current interest. Lancashire has sent not a few of her Catholic sons. The Bishop of Liverpool is accosted by fellow countrymen who greet him cordially, and not far off the Bishop of Salford is discussing a point of philology or a literary problem with friends. The Bishop-Elect of Shrewsbury has likewise come to pay his respects to the Legate, and near by is to be seen Colonel Walker, good-humored and jocose as usual. The Duke of Norfolk passes quietly through the great hall, stopping now and again to converse. Soon all the Cardinals are seated, the Spanish Primate, and Cardinals Logue, Gibbons, and Ferrari to the right and left of the Primate. The formal reception takes place. In single file the members of the vast gathering pass their Eminences on the platform, bowing to the Legate, and then descending to the body of the hall. Cardinal Vanutelli raises his hand to bless them one by one as they pass.

On Saturday morning there was a celebration of the Byzantine Liturgy in Westminster Cathedral. The unwonted spectacle drew together an immense congregation. The celebrant was the Very Rev. Arsenios Atiyeh, Archimandrite of the Melkite Church at Paris, the concelebrants and the deacon being Augustinians of the Assumption from Constantinople. The chant was chiefly in Byzantine Plainsong. The rendering by the choir of this strange music with the Greek text according to a complicated and foreign ritual was a great credit to the training of Mr. Terry, the choirmaster and organist. No trouble was spared to render the ancient rite with the dignity it deserved.

The concluding meetings of the various sections of the Congress were held on Saturday forenoon. At the close of the meeting in the Scottish Hall, Buckingham Gate, the Cardinal Legate delivered a brief address. He said he had visited the other sections, and could not neglect to visit this one. He was greatly touched by their reception, as he had been by the welcome extended to him elsewhere. Indeed, he could not trust himself to speak of that accorded to him at the great meetings in Albert Hall lest he should be overcome by his emotion. Sympathy had been shown to him, not only by Catholics, but also by the separated brethren and by the constituted authorities, who had shown their interest and good feeling. For all this he was deeply grateful. He did not, however, intend to keep all this to himself. It should be conveyed to the Holy Father, whose representative he was, and for whom it was meant. He regarded the Congress as an event remarkable in the history of this country, and he prayed that it might be followed by all the good results hoped for in deepening piety and faith in the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Father had charged him to convey to them his paternal affection and benediction.

#### CHILDREN'S PROCESSION.

One of the most interesting, as also probably the most touching, of all the proceedings in connection with the Congress was the Children's Service held at the Cathedral on Saturday afternoon, and the procession from the Embankment which preceded it. The children came from the Catholic schools in all parts of the metropolis and its immediate suburbs, and it was truly a moving sight which the little ones presented as they marched to the great Cathedral to add their youthful tributes to those which their elders had been paying to the Holy Eucharist during the week. The procession started from the Embankment, and both here and along the entire line of route to the Cathedral an enormous concourse of people was gathered to see