

THE PAPAL OBSEQUIES.

REQUIEM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Commemorating the Death of Pope Pius the Ninth.

A Eulogium Upon the Pontiff by the Very
Rev. Dr. Corcoran—The Services in
the Other Catholic Churches.

The Cathedral contained thousands of sorrowing Catholics yesterday, who had gathered to attend a Solemn Requiem Mass for the deceased Pontiff. At the head of the middle aisle, directly in front of the altar, stood the catafalque, which comprised a platform sixteen feet square, on which stood a table eight feet long, supporting a coffin six feet long. The catafalque was covered with black velvet, and a silver cross was worked upon the top of the coffin. A gilded cross stood at the head of the coffin, and a portrait of the late Pope, festooned with crape and silver sprays, hung at the foot. A few minutes before 11 o'clock the clergy who were to participate in the celebration, acolytes and choristers marched into the church from the northeast entrance and took their stations in the sanctuary while the organist played a voluntary "Funeral March" from Beethoven. Solemn High Mass was then celebrated, the Rev. John J. Elcock being celebrant; the Rev. John J. Ward, deacon; the Rev. James P. Sinnott, sub-deacon, and the Rev. Daniel A. Brennan, master of ceremonies. Obnewald's Requiem Mass was sung by a full chorus, Miss Coleman, soprano; Miss Jackson, contralto; Mr. Hensler, tenor, and Mr. Kempton, basso, rendering the solo parts.

DR. CORCORAN ON THE POPE.

At the conclusion of the Mass the Very Rev. Dr. James A. Corcoran, of St. Charles' Seminary, pronounced a eulogy upon the deceased Pontiff. Taking for his text the fifth verse of the fifteenth chapter of Ecclesiastes, he said:

We have met here to-day not only to mourn and grieve over our common loss, but to pray for the soul of him who has departed. The gathering of so many of the faithful here to-day is a practical refutation of the calumny which has arisen from our calling our Holy Father infallible. While we call him infallible we do not say that he is impeccable. The Pontiff is infallible only when he pronounces, as head of the Church, the words of faith as found revealed. Neither is he free from human frailty. We meet here to-day to pray that God may pardon him for all his errors of judgment. You all know at what an eventful time the good Pius IX. ascended the Throne of the Saints. A Pontiff was needed whose voice could be heard in the Church, and what were the first words he uttered? Words of peace, words of conciliation, words of clemency. He pardoned all who had erred. To all he extended pardon, and begged them to begin afresh a new life. You know the return made to him afterwards for his clemency; how the very men whom he had liberated, traitor-like rose up and turned against him.

Divine wisdom again opened his mouth. This time he was invoked to convene the great Vatican Council. That council spoke in union with him words which will endure forever, and which declared that the Roman Pontiff, ex-cathedra, cannot err. Again he spoke and condemned that mass of corruption which men dignify by the name of modern civilization. They say he was the enemy of civilization, but it is very unlikely that any one sitting in that chair could be called an enemy of civilization. There are two meanings of the word civilization—a good and a bad one—and the former was ever defended by the Holy Pontiff. Is that true civilization which destroys good government and gives us a false minority that rules as if it were a majority? We are laboring ourselves under the effects of this wicked civilization, and see what it has brought about. Is there any place free from this corruption? Not one. We have lived in it so long that we almost lose the stench arising from it. Let me not be too sweeping in my remarks. There are places where these vices of statesmen and politicians are not lost, and where honesty and truth are yet considered indispensable.

Our Pontiff again had the law of justice and severity upon his lips when occasions called for it; when he defended his States from the would-be robber and when he called the faithful to his side. They say that his army was an army of mercenaries. Oh, where is justice, that it does not strike dumb this base slander? There were men there descendants of crowned heads serving as privates in that army. We have met to pray for our Pontiff as well as to commemorate him. Oh, Great Pontiff, wherever thou art in the other sphere, fare thee well, after a long and well-spent life! If the term of purgation still continues we earnestly pray for its speedy termination; and if thou hast already entered into the glory of the Lord we ask you to pray for the Church and to beseech that a worthy successor be named of the Innocents, the Gregories and the Clements and of thou, too, the ninth Pius.

THE ABSOLUTION.

Absolution of the dead was given by Father Elcock, assisted by the other priests. The clergy, acolytes, thurible-bearers and torch-bearers marched from the sanctuary to the catafalque. Ascending the platform the cross-bearer, with an acolyte on each side of him, took post at the foot of the coffin, and the students of St. Charles' Seminary, standing in the sanctuary, chanted *De Exequiis Defunctorum*. Father Elcock incensed the catafalque and sprinkled it with holy water. The services were closed with the *Litaniæ* and responses, sung by the seminary students. As the assembly left the church Professor Zeckwer, the organist, played Chopin's Funeral March.

In many of the other churches, all of which were draped with mourning and some elaborately decorated, Solemn Requiem Masses were celebrated. The attendance was invariably large, including the total abstinence, beneficial and religious societies. In all those churches where no services were held yesterday a Solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated to-day.

The churches particularly noticeable for the tastefulness of their drapery and decorations were those whose programmes and preparations were described in yesterday's *TIMES*. The upholstering in St. John's Church, done by Mr. Richard Larmer, rendered the old cathedral not less attractive in its solemnity than the temple at Eighteenth and Race streets.