

weak: though he does lack the strong under jaw of Pio Nono. He seems to be more of a scholar and a saint, but perhaps less of a politician, than was his predecessor in the chair of St. Peter. The ceremony lasted about an

New Rome may be modern in her political and municipal institutions, but (unlike Paris) she seems still to be devoutly attached to her national Church and its head.

It is only on occasions such as this,



MADONNA LIBERATRICE.

*Herbert.*

hour-and-a-half, and at the end of it the Holy Father was carried back again, blessing us as he went, amid enthusiasm as great as upon his entrance.

that St. Peter's strikes me less as a place of worship (though in it

"The voice of prayer is never silent

Nor dies the strain of praise away"),

than as a magnificent gallery of statu-

when the great Cathedral is filled with some 40,000 or 50,000 people, many of them enthusiastic worshippers (like these Spanish pilgrims), that one really appreciates its superiority to any other Christian church. As Henri Taine very well expresses it:

"Thus filled and measured by the crowd, the church becomes colossal, ornate without being overcharged, and majestic without being overwhelming. Those gilded compartments that border the great vaults—those marble angels seated on its curves—that superb *baldachino* of bronze, supported by its spiral columns—those pompous mausoleums of the Popes, form an altogether unique combination. Never was a more magnificent pagan temple erected to a Christian God."

On ordinary days I confess