

ENGLAND'S HESITATION BETWEEN TWO MASTERS.

CARDINAL MANNING ON THE ENGLISH MARTYRS—A VERY ELO- QUENT SERMON.

From a somewhat imperfect report of the dedication of the English Martyrs in Tower Hill, we take the following sketch of Cardinal Manning's sermon:

Cardinal Manning delivered the opening sermon, taking for his text the words, "No man can serve two masters." His Eminence asked his hearers to consider what England was when the royalties of Jesus Christ were recognized and obeyed in the reign of the last king who was sainted and canonized Edward the Confessor. England recognized the supreme sway of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and for generations afterwards the people, opposed by their tyrannous masters, lifted up their hands, praying and petitioning for the restoration of the laws of the good King Edward. In his reign England served its Divine Master, but there came a time when the conqueror, the founder of another monarchy, entered in with all the rude power of war and all the domination of an absolute will. From that period down to three hundred years ago England was always in conflict, and always hesitating in her choice between the Divine Master and the human master. Four names stood out like historical lights: the first was St. Anselm, who was banished for years because he upheld the freedom of the election of bishops and pastors of the Church. The second was Stephen Langton, who, maintaining the liberty of the Church, suffered exile in like manner rather than obey a royal master who demanded things in heaven. Thirdly, there was the name of him whom he did not hesitate to call the greatest of Englishmen, St. Thomas of Canterbury, who, having to choose between two masters—one human the other Divine—chose the latter, and won the crown of martyrdom. The conflict was carried on by St. Edmund, who boldly upheld the liberty of the Church. In that liberty was contained the purity of the faith, the administration of the holy sacraments, the power of the keys, and the ultimate authority over the souls of men. He would not dwell on the history of that which followed during the great period of the splendor of the English monarchy, when the supreme power, both human and Divine, seemed to be in harmony, although in reality