

Cujus janua nullo unquam tempore ullum repulit
 Egentibus ultro liberalitate putuit,
 Demum omnibus officiis in patriam sancte per-
 functis,

Adversariis superatis consopitis factionibus
 Catholica religione cui se totum devoverat

In libertatem vindicata

Ex seculi procellis in portum æternitatis

Se recepit,

Ingenti sui desiderio apud cives tum apud externos
 relicto,

Obiit Januæ id. Maii, an. sal. MDCCLXVII.

Vixit an. LXXI, mens. IX., di VI.

Ad ætatem et res gestas per diu

Ad populorum præsidium ac solamen

Heu parem diu.

(To be continued.)

LITERATURE.

DESCRIPTION OF A MITRE AND CROSIER.

*Part of the ancient Pontificalia of the See of
 Limerick.*

BY THE RIGHT REV. JOHN MILNER, D.D., F.A.S.

IN A LETTER TO NICHOLAS CARLISLE, ESQ., SECRETARY.

(Taken from Vol. XVII. of *Arbhaeologia*.)

Wolverhampton, March 23, 1809.

Sir,—In a tour, which I made last autumn through part of the west of Ireland I met with certain articles of antiquity, in the possession of a friend of mine at Limerick, which, I am of opinion the Society will think curious. I shall therefore proceed here to give an account of them. They consist of the most important part of the ancient *Pontificalia* of the See of Limerick, namely, of the best or precious Mitre, and of what, no doubt, was the best crosier belonging to it; being each of them, exquisitely rich and beautiful; as likewise of the episcopal Register from the middle of the twelfth down to the middle of the fifteenth century. All these articles are in high preservation.

The body of the mitre both before and behind, consists of thin silver laminæ gilt, and adorned with flowers, composed of an infinite number of small pearls. The borders, and ornamented panel, or style down the middle, on both sides, is of the same substance, but thicker, being worked into mouldings vine leaves, &c., and enriched with enchased crystals, pearls, garnets, emeralds, amethysts, and other precious stones, several of which are of a very large size. Near the Apex or point of the Mitre, in front

is the following inscription, disposed in the form of a cross, and covered with a chrystal of the same shape "*Hoc signum crucis erit in celo.*" In a corresponding situation, on the other side of the mitre, is the continuation of the inscription, under a similar chrystal: "*Cum Dominus ad judicandum venerit.*" An authentic record concerning the date, and the original proprietor of this curious piece of antiquity, is beautifully enamelled round the bottom part of it, of which the following is a copy. "*Cornelius O'Deagh, Epus Limericensis Anno Domini Mille. CCCCLXVIII me fieri fecit.*" The *Redimicula*, or pendant ornaments to hang down the back of the Bishop, being altogether twenty one inches long, have, by some accident, been detached from the mitre. These likewise, consist, in general, of silver plate, and ornamented with innumerable small pearls disposed in the form of leaves, and flowers. On the lower part of them are embossed elegant niches, or tabernacles containing figures.—One of these represents angel Gabriel, with the usual label; the other the blessed Virgin. They terminate with a rich gold fringe.

The crosier consists of massive silver, gilt, being seven feet long, and of the weight of about ten pounds. The whole exterior part of the curve is surrounded with a wreath of fine leaves, highly finished; and the flat part of the curve, on each side, is ornamented with large pearls elegantly set, to the number of twelve on a side. Within the curve, in the open part, are cast silver figures of the Blessed Virgin seated with the mystical dove, suspended by a wire over her head; and of the angel Gabriel in a kneeling attitude. Between the figures is seen the allegorical lily growing out of a ever. The curve itself is supported by the emblematic figure of a Peleican, with its wings expanded, and feeding its young with its blood. At a suitable distance below the curve, are six female figures under canopies in enamelled work. Amongst these I distinguished the attributes of St. Bridget of Kildare, St. Catharine, St. Barbara, and St. Margaret. Beneath these, and forming the boss of the crosier, are six elegant cast statues of silver, each of them being two inches and a half high, representing the Blessed Trinity St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Patrick, St. Munchin, who was the patron saint of Limerick, and the Blessed Virgin. They stand upon corbels or trusses, in appropriate niches, adorned with spire work in the richest and most elegant style of pointed architecture. Under the boss is a wreath of enamelling, containing the same title, &c., of the aforesaid Cornelius O'Deagh. The upper part of the shaft is studded with precious stones, and enamelling, containing the monogram of Jesus, IHS, in the characters of the age. The several joints are ornamented with crowns, as the intervening spaces are with engraved flourishing. The whole termi-