

M. Abadie, who seems to have surpassed himself in his endeavor to produce a design worthy of the National Vow, worthy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The interior of this votive temple is divided into two churches, one above the other. The Crypt, or lower church, is entered through a large vaulted doorway in the façade, while a grand exterior staircase leads up to the main entrance of the upper church. The general disposition of the chapels in the Crypt may be given in a few words. The access is in "the tutelary keeping of the Guardian Saints of the Sanctuary, while the wings of the edifice are supported by the Apostles, the friends of Jesus, the founders of religious orders, and then, in the Apse, the Holy Family overshadows all. St. Peter, on whom the fabric seems to rest, occupies the vast centre of the temple, and in the deep gloom and solitude is found the chapel of the dead, the Chapel of the Holy Souls." The Chapel of the Holy Souls is so arranged that no day-light is permitted to enter, but lamps are kept continually burning. The upper edifice, which is connected with the Crypt by ten flights of stairs, rests upon four massive pillars, and is surmounted by the immense central dome which covers the entire choir.

The smaller chapels of the Basilica are almost innumerable, yet this number was found insufficient to meet the requests for altars that poured in from all sides in behalf of the patron Saints of cities, dioceses, provinces, and even foreign countries. Then began a pious contest among the applicants. Pillars and niches were disputed, and fabulous prices paid for them. Societies, families, and particular classes of suffering or rejoicing humanity, have also found means to aid in the erection of this truly national monument, and hence one meets with the Pillar of the Sick, the Pillar of Orphans, the Pillar of Gratitude, the Pillar of the Poor. Offerings, too, of various other kinds have been sent to aid in the embellishment of this Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart. Leo XIII has contributed the magnificent Ciborium presented to him on the occasion of his episcopal jubilee, and the Bishop of Athens has sent a stone detached from

the ruins of the Areopagus, to serve as an altar-stone for the altar of St. Denis. *La Savoyarde*, the bell of Montmartre, is the gift of Savoy, and is said to be the largest bell in France. It is 10 feet in diameter, 10 feet in height, and weighs about 25 tons. Its handsomely decorated exterior bears the inscription: *Vivat Jesus*.

Considering, then, the obstacles that have arisen to impede its progress, the Work of the National Vow has advanced with marvellous rapidity. Inaugurated in 1870, it received three years later the official recognition of the National Assembly. In 1885, the perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was instituted, and in 1891 took place the opening of the Basilica, while since 1876, the Archconfraternity of the Sacred Heart has been busily engaged in continuing the exterior "mission that Our Lord confided to France in 1689," by spreading devotion "to the Divine Heart among all classes of society throughout the world." This remarkable progress of the work is, no doubt, due in a great degree to the rare administrative abilities of the two eminent prelates that have been connected with it, yet it would be difficult to overestimate the value of the services rendered by their zealous co-operators, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Their indefatigable labors in the glorious mission entrusted to their care formed the joy and consolation of the venerable Cardinal Guibert, have won the confidence and love of his successor, Cardinal Richard, and have elicited from all quarters the highest and most flattering expressions of praise. So intimately, indeed, are they identified with the success of this grand religious movement that no history of it would be complete that failed to mention the name of Rev. Father Rey, of the silver-tongued son of de Mazeriod, Père Lemius, whose glowing eloquence has published far and wide the glories of the Mount of Martyrs, and finally, of Rev. Father Jonquet, whose "*Montmartre Autrefois et Aujourd'hui*," has furnished this present article with its details concerning perhaps the noblest monument of piety ever erected by a Christian people—the Temple of the National Vow, the Basilica of Montmartre.