

chaunted by the Choir, after which the Bishop commenced a Pontifical Mass, at the close of which he administered the Holy Communion to the assembled Clergy, and to several hundreds of the faithful. He also solemnly blessed, during this Mass, the Holy Oils, viz.: the Oil of the sick for Extreme Unction and the blessing of Bells; the Oil of Catechumens, used in blessing the Baptismal Font, in conferring baptism, in consecrating Churches and Altars, in ordaining Priests, and in the blessing and coronation of Sovereigns;—and the sacred chrism composed of Oil of Olives and Balm of Gilead, which is used in anointing the crown of the head after baptism, on the forehead in confirmation, at the consecration of Bishops, of Chalices and Patenas, and at the blessing of Bells. The prayers and chaunts which accompanied the blessing of these holy unguents were singularly beautiful and impressive. Two hosts having been consecrated on this day, one was reserved for Good Friday, in which, properly speaking, no mass is celebrated, because no consecration of the sacred elements takes place on the day when the sacrifice of the Cross was offered in a bloody manner on Calvary. Accordingly the Bishop carried the Host in solemn procession to the Chapel of the blessed Sacrament which had been previously prepared and adorned with lights and flowers. During the procession *Pange lingua gloriosi*, composed by that stu-

pendous genius St. Thomas of Aquin, in honour of the blessed Sacrament, was sung by the Choir, whilst the Most Holy was continually incensed by two Thurifers, the Clergy, &c. walking with lighted wax tapers. At the return of the Procession the Mass was concluded; Vespers were chaunted in the Choir, and the Bishop then proceeded to the denudation of the altar, which while he was stripping of all its ornaments, the Clergy and Choir chaunted the Antiphon, 'They divided my garments amongst them, and for my coat they cast lots,' together with the whole of the 21st Psalm 'O God, my God, look upon me,' &c. We should have observed that at the blessing of the Oils on this day, six of the Clergymen were attired in their full sacerdotal robes. The chasubles which they wore, together with the dress of the Bishop and his attendants being of the most costly materials, the effect of the whole was extremely grand. Indeed, throughout the whole week, it was evident that no expense was spared in contributing to the decorations and beauty of the Lord's House, and thereby impressing every beholder with respect and devotional awe for the majesty of the great God whose mysteries were celebrated.

On Good Friday morning the whole Church wore the aspect of desolation and mourning, all the ornaments and pictures were either taken away or covered. The sacred edifice was hung