

A ROMAN LILY.

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make the Palliums worn by all archbishops. Inside the walls of Rome is another church, dedicated to St. Agnes. This church is superbly decorated, and is rich in rare marbles and ancient mosaics. Here the feast is joyfully celebrated. One pleasant feature of the ceremony is the custom of sprinkling the entire floor of the church with evergreen box.

Eliza Allen Starr tells us that next to the representations of the Apostles and Evangelists, no saint appears so early in pictures as St. Agnes—that her effigy, with her name inscribed below it, was found on the glass and earthen wear used by the christians in the fourth century. In early pictures St. Agnes is always represented carrying a palm in one hand, and sometimes she is crowned with olive. Later artists, however, appropriately represent her accompanied by a lamb, either lying in her arms or standing beside her.

Not only have the great artists of the church vied with one another in honoring this lovely girl, but the greatest doctors and saints of the church have resounded her praises and imitated her virtues. The great St. Ambrose and St. Austin were noted for their devotion to her, and Thomas à Kempis chose her for his especial patron. When the author of "*The Imitation*," that most profound and consoling book, petitioned for the favor of St. Agnes, surely we could do no better than follow his example. None of us will likely die for our faith. Our privilege is to live for it. Faith will shine with added lustre, boys and girls become better men and women, if we persevere in trying to reproduce in ourselves the heroic virtues of our Lily of Jesus.

MARTHA MURRAY.

EPIPHANY.

JANUARY 6th, the one thousand eight hundred and ninety-third anniversary of the happy day on which the God-Man revealed Himself to the three pious and princely travellers, ought to us be a day of thanksgiving. If anything awakens feelings of gratitude Epiphany should. How much did our fate, "to be or not to be," christians, depend on that journey of those pious kings? We owe much thanks to the great christian mariner, Columbus, who, faithful to the north star's guidance and full of hope in the "Star of the Sea," discovered for us a vast continent, but we likewise owe a debt of gratitude to the three holy kings who, amid difficulties untold, were faithful to the guiding star which opened up to them another world—the Kingdom of Christ—not only to them, but to all of us. If astronomy be an uncertain science one thing will be always certain, and that is, we all have our guiding star. Its course is a particular one for each of us—God's will. Woe to us if we heed it not! Let us now, at the threshold of a new year, resolve to follow *God's* star and none other. Do you feel unable? Then look for light, guidance, strength and consolation in another star towards which St. Bernard directs your attention, viz., to the Star of the Sea—Mary.

My religious habit and poor clothes show that I despise from my heart the gaudy pomps of the world. The honors and riches of a king, who must shortly die himself, are no temptation for me.—*St. Anastasius, the Martyr.*

What man can celebrate the most praiseworthy Mary according to her dignity?—*St. Cyril of Alexandria.*

I never was angry but once in my life, and I have always regretted it.—*St. Francis de Sales.*