

“ John saying : Go and prepare for us the pasch that we may eat.

“ They said : Where wilt thou that we prepare ?

“ He said to them : Behold, as you go into the city, there shall meet you a man carrying a pitcher of water : follow him into the house where he entereth in : and you shall say to the good man of the house : The Master saith to thee : Where is the guest-chamber, where I may eat the pasch with my disciples ? And he shall show you a large dining-room furnished : and there prepare.

“ And they going, found as he said to them, and made ready the pasch. And when the hour was come, he sat down and the twelve apostles with him. And he said to them : With desire I have desired to eat this pasch with you before I suffer.

And then he instituted the Blessed Eucharist, the true paschal banquet of all Christian generations until the end of this world.

ANTHONY.

THE NEW FIRE.

A LEGEND.

THE period is Anno Domini 431. The season, the vernal equinox.

The Celtic year was drawing to a close and in the city of Tarah, the centre of the Druidial worship, the Irish were celebrating the triennial feast of the New Fire.

This was for them the most solemn, the greatest of night. A silent crowd, standing in the shadow closely pressed together, surrounded the palace of O'Neil the great chieftain of the Island, and the princes and warriors, who had assembled at Tarah, from all parts of Green Erin were gathered around the monarch.

Upon the terrace of the palace an immense wood pile had been erected and crowned with flowers. Close by this woodpile stood the Chief of the Druids. The moon cast a fascinating twilight upon the scene, and, in the sky above, not a cloud traversed the horizon.

According to a custom of time immemorial in Ireland,