

## FINAL BENEDICTION.

From first to last the procession had been nearly five hours on the way when at length the Legate placed the Blessed Sacrament on the throne of the altar erected before the great door of the Cathedral. On either side were grouped hundreds of happy children who had made their First Communion this year. Behind them massed banners of the processionists formed a wall of color. The two spires soaring up to a height of 500 feet into the sunlit sky formed a gigantic reredos for the altar. The great open spaces around, and all the converging streets were crowded. It must have been a congregation of 200,000. Again the *Tantum Ergo* was sung and the hymn was taken up far away through street and square. Then came the solemn hush as the Legate, bearing the Blessed Sacrament, passed into the Cathedral where the Benediction was given once more, the crowds began to disperse in perfect order bearing with them ineffaceable memories of the glorious festivities.

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PRECEDENCE.—During a great rush for tickets at a railway station, a priest was in line.

Traveller to the priest : " I am going ahead of you."

Priest : " Very well, you may go, although I was here first."

Traveller (blustering) : " Here, like at the confessional, each one in turn and money in hand."

Priest : " What ! Did you ever give money at confession ?"

Traveller : " Yes, sir."

Priest : " Oh ! I understand. Money is given sometimes at confession in cases of restitution."

(Laughter and applause from bystanders.)

If children, at the age of reason, usually about the seventh year, are amenable to the precepts of the church ; if they are bound to confess their sins, hear Mass, and, in danger of health, receive the Viaticum, they must be capable, under competent tutors, of learning something, and, perhaps, a great deal more than we would believe, about the mysteries of the Holy Eucharist.

G. HEER.