

the Sixtine Chapel, His Holiness proceeds to the balcony over the central door of St. Peter's, and pronounces the benediction.

He then passes in to take his seat, and there enter from a side door thirteen bishops in white garments and high white caps. Twelve of these represent the Apostles, whose feet were washed, and the thirteenth represents an angel who, it is said, appeared to Gregory the Great while he was performing an act of charity. These take their seats with much gravity, and as they are the happy possessors of the feet to be washed by the Pope, they are the objects of much observation and respect.

After preparatory services, the Pope suffers his cope to be removed, and an embroidered apron to be tied on; and with the assistance of cardinal-deacons, a towel is fastened to his waist. He then washes and kisses the right foot of each of the thirteen bishops, although not much time is occupied, and the operation is not of the most thorough and complete nature.

Each bishop is then the recipient of a towel and a nosegay from the Pope, and a gold medal from the Treasurer. His Holiness then washes his own sacred hands, dons his cope, and proceeds to the next act of humiliation.



TOOK BRANCHES AND WENT FORTH.

## The Grand Penitentiary.

Among the remarkable features of St. Peter's, is the number of confessionals, with clergy seated, ready for duty—religious sentinels at their posts. Still further to accommodate penitents, the confessions are heard in French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Greek, besides Italian. In addition to all this the Grand Cardinal Penitentiary sits on Holy Thursday to give absolution for mortal sins beyond the sphere of ordinary confession, and which cannot be otherwise forgiven.

The altars are all stript. The hundred lamps that burn around the tomb of St. Peter are extinguished, the Miserere is chanted, and the greatest gloom prevails.

## WASHING THE FEET OF PILGRIMS.

This ceremony takes place at the Trinita de Pelegrini, situated in one of the most populous quarters of Rome. Poor persons with certificates from their bishops, and who come from a distance of

## The Serving at Supper.

Conducted in a stately procession the Pope passes across the nave of the great Cathedral, and walks up a stair leading to a large apartment above the portico. Here, in this "upper chamber," a table is laid for a regular meal, the recipients of which are the thirteen bishops who have just been honoured in the Washing of Feet. He gives them water to wash their hands, helps them to various dishes, and pours them wine and water to drink. The plates are handed to him by prelates, and during the feast a chaplain reads prayers.

The Pope then blesses the divines, washes his hands, and departs in the same stately procession in which he came. The priests who are the envied objects of all this Papal attention, are selected from different countries by diplomatic agents.

## At Least Sixty Miles.

are admitted. The feet of men are washed in one place; the feet of women in another; and only women are permitted as spectators to behold the operation among the latter.

Along one end and side of the chamber, a bench is placed for a seat, and a board is raised from the floor for the feet. A ragged crowd enters, and proceeds to take off shoes and stockings. Priests appear. Prayers are read. A confraternity of citizens, organized for this and similar acts of humiliation, assist at the ceremony, habited in red jackets, small cravats, and aprons, and indulging in laughter and chatter till the tubs of hot water are brought in.

Generally speaking, a preparatory process of ablution has taken place, whereby the act is shorn of, something