

are ascribed. Beneath the organ stairs in this transept is a dark Chapel, called the Chapel of the Sepulchre, formerly used in Holy Week for the celebration of the Mass of the Passion of Christ.

I feel how far all I have said, in attempting to describe the Cathedral of Winchester, falls short of my design. To the mere glimpse which I have been able to give, I would add what is said of the reflections it suggests by William Howitt:—

"When we walk in a fabric like this, venerable with the flight of nearly a thousand years, and build up again in imagination its jewelled shrines, rear aloft its glittering roof, replace all its statues of gold and silver and chiselled stone, and see once more with the mind's eye, there assembled the stately kings and queens, mighty prelates, and throngs of proud warriors and nobles of past times, amidst the magic tide of music, and the imposing high masses, we must confess that if the people were superstitious, it was not without great temptation, for never did human wit achieve so fair temples, or animate them with a pageantry of worship so seducing to the imagination. To conceive what must have been the effect of this gorgeous scene, thus raised and adorned by all the arts, aided by the full pomp of the ritual ceremony, on an audience of those days, we have only to complete the picture by a passage from a modern poet:

"Thus from the altar's base, intoning prayers,
Mid white-robed youths, then mounting up the stairs,
A friar of orders grey, the service said;
Oft bent his knee, oft bowed his shaven head;
Oft crossed him thrice; oft smote upon his breast,
Now turning, hailed the multitude and blest,
Choirs answered him with anthems soaring loud,
Incense curled up and wreathed on high a cloud.
In choral ranks the palled procession rood,
Hymned every saint and chaunted praise to God;
While through each aisle the faithful gazing strolled,
Or reading knelt, and signed the holy rood,
Till heard the warning of a silvery bell,
To earth all prostrate bowed the face and fell.
Then pealed bassonade, halldrums rung,
Deep organs shouted with a trumpet's tongue,
Through nave and transept rolled the billowy sound,
And swelled and flooded aisles and arches round;
Each pillar trembles, kneeling statues nod,
And walls with men re-echo—thanks to God."

General Intelligence.

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

(Lord Camoys in the Chair.)

The Hon. Mr. Langdale said, in consequence of a communication from the Hon. Edward Petre, as Chairman of a meeting of the committee which had taken place last October, he had attended a meeting in London in November. A few gentlemen, himself included, were appointed to look into the state of the Institute, and the result was, that finding the funds were exhausted, and a debt contracted with the Joint-Stock Bank, a resolution was passed to recommend to the General Committee to put an immediate stop to all further outgoings; to give the secretary notice that his services would cease

after a certain period, and that the house should also be given up. It was judged expedient to take these preliminary steps, though, as Mr. Petre would inform them, a new organisation of the Institute, in conformity with the recommendation of the Bishops, was at the same time in contemplation. This plan which had been proposed at a meeting over which Mr. Petre presided, and which had been forwarded to him in the country, that gentleman would himself detail. He had, however, further to say, that in case of the new organisation of the Catholic Institute, being carried into effect, one principal object would be a more constant communication on all matters between the branches in the country and the secretary in London. But as this communication must be principally carried on with and through the clergy; it would, under the new arrangement, be advisable that a clerical secretary be appointed. It was supposed that through him a more confidential correspondence could be carried on with the clergy throughout the country than would be possible with a lay secretary, however otherwise qualified. He was also authorised to state that abstractedly considered, layman or clergyman for secretary, the Bishops, with one exception, had expressed their opinions in favor of a clergyman, and that one Bishop considered this point immaterial. He wished most explicitly to be understood as not by this expressing anything unfavourable on the part of their Lordships towards Mr. Smith, but simply that a clerical was preferable to a lay secretary. He must say that he concurred fully in that opinion, and that on many occasions as well as by tracts as by other replies in answer to attacks on our religion, such a secretary would be a valuable addition to the powers of the Institute. He should simply conclude by moving that all current expenses should for the present cease, and that a committee be appointed to examine all the accounts, and to give such notice to the secretary regarding the period of terminating his services as may be judged fair and honourable.

Mr. Petre began by stating that in compliance with the wishes of the Bishops several gentlemen met to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution adopted by them, and which appeared in the Tablet in the month of November last, and to assure their lordships that they, as members of the committee, would use their best exertions to carry out their lordships' wishes and intentions, in maintaining and upholding the institute, and it appeared to them that the best mode of carrying out so desirable an object, was to have an acting committee, composed of a permanent chairman and a deputy chairman, two clergymen and five laymen, and that application should be made to the Hon. C. Langdale to undertake the duties of chairman. Mr. Petre likewise added that in case no more efficient person