



English Bluejackets at the Vatican.

The reception by the Pope of 350 sailors and 50 officers of the British Squadron at Civit  Vecchia was an event unique even in the varied annals of the Apostolic Palace. The arrangements were made by the Anglo-Roman Committee, under the presidency of Mgr. Stonor, assisted by the Duke of Norfolk. Coffee was served out to the men on their arrival at the Trastevere railway station at seven a.m., after which they were marched to the Vatican and assisted at Mass in the Sistine Chapel in the presence of the Holy Father.

His Holiness, borne into the chapel in the *sedia gestatoria*, blessed the kneeling congregation, and after the service, sat on a chair in front of the altar while the officers, and some ladies, including the Admiral's daughter, Miss Culme Seymour, were presented to him.

On his leaving the chapel the enthusiasm of the congregation manifested itself in loud cheers, while he responded with repeated benedictions to the loud hurrahs of the bluejackets. An excellent meal was provided for all under the Charlemagne Portico, where clear soup, roast beef (half a kilogram to each man), fried antichokes, chicken and salad, pudding, strawberries and cream, beer, Marsala, and champagne, were served out in a hall tastefully decorated with flowers and the English and Pontifical flags. The healths of the Pope and of Queen Victoria were proposed by Mgr. Stonor, followed by a patriotic speech from the Abb  Strickland and the singing of the Pontifical Hymn and National Anthem by the choir.

The Vatican galleries and gardens were thrown open to the visitors, who heard in the afternoon a sermon preached by the Very Rev. Canon Moyes at the church of St. Sylvester. A hundred carriages were provided for their conveyance to see the sights of Rome, and further refreshments were supplied to them at the Trastevere station before their departure.—*London Tablet*.