



TWO ALTAR-BOYS

To celebrate the opening of the Jubilee in the year 1775, the inhabitants of Osimo, an Italian village near Loreto, organized a magnificent procession in which the pupils of the different colleges and seminaries took part.

The rich silver candlesticks which accompanied the Cross, were carried by two young students of the Seminary, aged about fifteen years. One was called Genga, the other Castiglione. Both belonged to noble and illustrious families.

It is not known for what reason, but during the course of the procession the two acolytes began to quarrel, and, carried away by the ardour of their argument, had recourse to blows using the candlesticks they bore, to emphasize their angry remarks.

Though the young combatants were quickly separated by the disinterested onlookers, it was not soon enough to prevent Genga from receiving a blow which rendered him insensible.

Fifty years afterwards, in the year 1825, Genga who then occupied the Fisherman's Chair under the venerable title of Leo XII., descended from the Vatican accompanied by the Roman court, to celebrate the opening of another Jubilee.

Castiglione, having become Bishop and Cardinal, filled the important position of Grand Penitencier of the Roman Church. To him fell by right the honour of presenting to the Pope the silver hammer used in the antique ceremony of the opening of the Holy Door. On accepting it Leo XII. said in a low voice, with a roguish smile: "Fifty years ago today, Your Eminence offered me, on a similar occasion, but in a little less gracious manner, another, silver instrument." "I remember the event, Holy Father," answered the Cardinal, somewhat embar-