

BACK TO ROME.

BY G. W. FOOTE.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other right reverend fathers-in-god of the Church of England, did not look very far ahead when they got up that St. Augustine celebration at Ebbsfleet. They did not see that they were creating a splendid opportunity for the great rival Church of Rome. In commemorating the alleged introduction of Christianity in the south of England by St. Augustine and his brother monks, they overlooked the fact that all those missionaries were Roman Catholics. But this fact was very naturally not overlooked by Cardinal Vaughan, who at once proceeded to work it for all it was worth. He began to organize a great counter demonstration at the same spot in the county of Kent, taking care that it should outvie the other one in every important feature. There should be more clericals, a greater variety of costumes, and a bigger procession; and, above all, England should be reminded that the Romish Church, which brought Christianity here, was still waiting to welcome back this country to her maternal embrace.

Cardinal Vaughan's counter demonstration took place a few days ago, and seems to have been a pretty show. Ecclesiastical millinery and ritual tonfoolery were displayed in a manner which showed that the Church of England is dull in comparison with the Mother Church from which it seceded.

The Catholic Church beats all others in the matter of scenic display. On Sunday last it held its annual procession in the East-end of London "in honor of Our Lady, and in commemoration of the thirteenth century of the conversion of England to the Catholic and Roman faith." From the circus point of view, it was a tremendous success. There were hundreds of men and women; children in white carrying baskets of flowers; a contingent from the Italian Church, dressed in scarlet, and carrying a gigantic crucifix; priests in surplices, and acolytes in blue and white; a distinguished Father vested in a gorgeous cope, and a statue of Virgin Mary surrounded by lights and flowers. According to the *Westminster Gazette*, the attitude of the vast crowd of spectators was sympathetic and even reverent; in fact, our contemporary regards it as "extremely remarkable, and as denoting the extraordinary change of public opinion towards the Roman Church during the last few years."

One incident of the procession was worthy of particular notice. At the site of the scaffold in Trinity-square a halt was made, and prayers were said in honor of Sir Thomas More, Cardinal Fisher, and other Catholic "martyrs," who were executed there, or elsewhere, in the reign of Henry VIII. This would be a touching incident if we did not know that most of those "martyrs" sent other people to the flames with the utmost cheerfulness. More himself sinned against