

dren to come to me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." A more interesting sight has been seldom witnessed in Halifax.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.—The adjourned Quarterly Meeting of the Halifax Branch of this Association will be held on to-morrow week, after Vespers, in St. Mary's Vestry.

CELEBRATION OF THE LANDING OF THE MARYLAND PILGRIMS.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, on Monday the 14th, the new, swift, and elegantly furnished steamer *Baltimore*, under the command of her obliging agent, Capt. George Mattingly, left the wharf at Georgetown, for the site of the ancient city of St. Mary, on St. Mary's river, Maryland. She had on-board her charter party, the Philodemic Society of Georgetown College, and a number of citizens, who availed themselves of the invitation of the society to accompany them on their excursion to the locality of the old city of St. Mary, where they proposed to celebrate in a becoming manner, the landing of the pilgrim fathers of Maryland, on the bank of St. Mary's river. An hour afterwards she touched at the steamboat wharf of Washington, where she received on board an accession to her numbers, in the persons of several of our citizens, among whom we had the pleasure of being one. After stopping at Alexandria a few moments, we got fairly on our way for our destination, by five o'clock in the afternoon, and though the wind was ahead, and blowed very briskly, we anchored at midnight in the waters of the St. Mary's river, opposite the residence of Rev. Jos. Carbery, the Superior of St. Inigoos. The Philodemic Society were accompanied with their skillful orchestra, consisting chiefly of members of their own body, under the lead and direction of M. Espiuta. The rich strains of classic music they gave forth during the voyage, on the several occasions of leaving the wharves of the three cities, on passing Fort Washington, Mount Vernon, and some other points, served to enliven the usual monotony of steamboat travelling.—The utmost zeal was displayed by the members of the Philodemic Society to make both themselves and their arrangements agreeable to the company who had the good fortune to be present. The accomplished and courteous President of Georgetown College, the Rev. Dr. James Ryder, was the master spirit of the scene, and his joyous family of ninety youths reflected not only credit upon themselves by their excellent deportment, but did the Principal infinite honour.

The morning of the 15th May, 1849, the anniversary of the day when the Pilgrim ships sailed over the same ground that held our anchor, broke from the east in unusual brilliancy. Before the sun peeped above the horizon, the shout of welcome was sent up from on board our boat, in the midst of soul-inspiring music, as the steamer *Planter*, from Baltimore, freighted with a large party of visitors, came to anchor along side of the Baltimore. A few wood vessels lay around us, and as the sun rose, the breeze began to freshen from the west, and all things seemed to conspire together to make the occasion one of the greatest enjoyment. Soon every ship's boats, that could be pressed into service, and every shallop and scow in the vicinity, were in motion for the purpose of landing the passengers. This movement, not being a part of the contemplated arrangements, was occasioned, it seems, by an indisposition on the part of the proprietors of the land and adjacent grounds, where the old city of St. Mary stood, to permit their use for the purpose of allowing the celebration to be held on that sacred spot. The objections urged, as we learned, were, that most of the site of the old city was sown in wheat and that the part still in sward was occupied by the new State Female

Seminary, the Episcopal Church and its grave yard. It was thought that the assemblage of a crowd would injure very seriously the grown wheat, and that injury might ensue to the premises occupied as just described. An offer was however made, on the part of those concerned to permit the use of the grounds, if the Philodemic Society would be responsible for any damage or injury to the premises. This condition not having been acceded to, it was determined to celebrate the occasion at the church of St. Ignatius, distant about a mile eastward from Mr. Carbery's residence, off which we were then lying at anchor. This determination having been taken—the necessity of which was as painful to the Philodemic Society as it was a matter of regret to their invited guests and the company at large—the landing of the passengers from both boats commenced in earnest. The scene was a gay one, and one full of excitement. By 9 o'clock we were all landed and prepared for the procession to the church, when the Chief Marshal of the day, Judge H. G. S. Key, appeared on the ground with his assistants, many of whom were citizens of St. Mary's county. The order for marching being given, we moved towards the church of St. Ignatius, at least five hundred in number.

On our arrival at the church of St. Ignatius, we found gathered some five hundred ladies and gentlemen of the country, ready to receive us. The road to the church, and the precincts of the church, were lined with the good-natured and wonder-expressing faces of the colored race, some of whom were decked out in the faded finery of other days, while others, less ambitious, were content with the every-day garb of their condition. Not far from the church some of the hospitable inhabitants of the country had provided a cold collation, in abundance, for hungry appetites. Near by was erected a platform for the orator of the day, Col. Z. Collins Lee, of Baltimore, and the surrounding space was well furnished with seats for the accommodation of the assembly.

High Mass having been said by Bp. Vandevelde, assisted by several of the reverend clergy, Bp. Spalding addressed the congregation in the church, in a strain of great eloquence, going to demonstrate, that, unless the purposes of life are sanctified by religion, they come to nought. We must not omit to refer, in this connection, to the excellent singing of the choir, during the celebration of the Mass. When the services of the church were over, Col. Lee and Dr. Pise ascended the out-door stand, and soon the platform was filled with the clergy, and other citizens of distinction. After order and quiet were obtained, Dr. Pise rose and pronounced, in an energetic voice, the following beautiful prayer:

Prayer by Rev. C. C. Pise, of St. Peter's Church, New York.

LET US PRAY.

"Begin we to the Lord with timbrels, sing we to the Lord with cymbals, tune unto Him a new Psalm, extol and call upon his name." Yes, on this spot, rendered memorable and hallowed by the landing of the Maryland Pilgrims, on the margin of this bright and majestic river, in the midst of these fertile fields and umbrageous valleys, we adore Thee, oh Omnipotent and Eternal Father! God! "Most High and Eminent, who inhabitest eternity and dwellest in the holy place,"† God of the land, "to whom belong the poles of the earth, upon which the world is set,"‡ who didst inspire thy servant, Columbus, with the design, and gird him with the courage, to seek and discover these unknown regions, behind whose mountains the sun rolled down his gorgeous chariot, unseen by the eye of civilized men; who didst strengthen the Pilgrim Fathers to peril the tempests of the deep in quest of a haven of safety and peace, which they found on this consecrated spot; God of the Firmament, under whose bright pavilion they reared their first altars and spread out their peaceful tabernacles; God of freedom, "in whose eyes it is right to proclaim liberty, every one to his brother," whose Omnipotence did en-

* Judith xvi. 2.
† Isaiah lvi. 15.
‡ Jeremiah xxxiv. 15.

dow man's hill with freedom, and seat in his breast conscience, a holy and fearless monitor, we adore thee with profound humility, amid the triumphant recollections of the event we are this day commemorating.

We praise Thee for having guided our Catholic Pilgrims to these Western shores teeming with plenty, and smiling with welcome, where they planted the cross, unfurled the banner of toleration, and advanced the progress of civilization. We thank Thee for all the blessings since showered upon our beloved country; for having raised up a Washington in the day of her need; for the independence achieved by his valor, consolidated by his virtues; for having destined her, in thy Providence, to become the asylum of the persecuted and the hope of future ages; for having winged the eagles of her forests to carry to the extremities of the earth the tidings of great joy, the olive branch of peace, and the trophies of rational liberty. We thank Thee for the propagation of thy Church in the United States—the Church of the Maryland Pilgrims, so eminently and numerously represented here by her Prelates, her Clergy, and her Laity. We pray Thee to continue to look down propitiously upon our country, perpetuate her liberties, and fill up the measure of her prosperity and greatness.

We pray for the President of the Republic,—the unconquered hero of many battles. Inspire him with a national solicitude and give a steady direction to the patriotism which animates his breast. Grant him health, strength, light and protection, in his exalted but arduous position, that he may be as wise in the cabinet as he was brave in the camp. We pray for the army, that it may continue to be an ornament in peace, a buckler in war; for the navy, that, while our national mariners go down in ships to the deep sea to protect our commerce and extend civilization, they may propagate, to the ends of the earth, the principles of Christianity and Eternal Truth. We pray for all public functionaries, that they may discharge, with fidelity, their duties towards our common country. Imprint, indelibly, on their minds the awful truth that they are to be arraigned, on the last day, before the dread Tribunal, to answer for the trust committed to their care. We pray for the Prelates of the Church in the United States, that they may be ever animated by the spirit of their venerable predecessors in the episcopacy; that in all their legislation, while they keep their eyes fixed upon the institutions of the country and the exigencies of the age, they may, with unremitting solicitude, guard the ancient deposit entrusted to their keeping from the Apostolic times. Inspire their breasts, oh Father of the Faithful, with prudence, moderation and clemency, while Thou nerverest their arms with justice, zeal and power. We pray for all our brethren and fellow-citizens, that they may be enlightened, guided, blessed by thy Holy Providence, and, while enjoying the unprecedented temporal blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon them here below, let them be mindful of those imperishable rewards thou hast in store for thy faithful servants in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We most fervently implore thy protection upon the Venerable Head of the Church, our Holy Father, Pius IX—the exile, the confessor, and almost the martyr. From his gentle brows, pluck, we beseech thee, the crown of thorns with which the ingratitude of his people have pierced them, while the veneration and homage of the civilized world have encircled them with a glorious and extinguishable halo. Infuse into his breast the courage of his sainted predecessors; nerve his arm, that he may be enabled to hold, with a firm grasp, the helm of Peter's bark, amid the fury of the raging storm; lead him back in safety to the Tomb of the Apostles, the Chair of the Vatican, the Throne of the Roman Pontiffs—the Capital of the Christian world. Under his paternal reign, may Rome be blessed again with prosperity and peace, and during his glorious pontificate may he be enabled, untrammelled by impediments, and with perfect security and freedom, to preside over the Catholic Church.

Finally, oh God of the living and dead, we beseech thee, in conformity with the doctrine and usage of thy Holy Church, to remember the souls of the faithful, who have gone to their final repose; of the Catholic Pilgrims, and their children, of whom the mortal remains of some may have mouldered beneath the green sward of this memorable spot. And grant that we, who have come hither from remote parts—some of us back to our natal soil—may be impressed with the conviction that we are but pilgrims in this valley of time, and that our true country lies far away beyond the

eternal hills. Grant that we may continue firm in the doctrines of our ancestors, and imitators of the virtues which have rendered them immortal, and deserve to be united with them in those bright and eternal habitations prepared for the elect, before the foundations of the earth were laid. All which we implore through the merits and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who, with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.—*Catholic Observer.*

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

ALBANY, May —, 1849.

To the Editor of the *Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register* :

DEAR SIR—Hoping that some one better qualified for the task than I, would, ere this, have furnished you with an account of the solemn and interesting ceremony which took place at St. Joseph's Church on the festival of its patron Saint, I have thus long remained silent. It is always gratifying to the Catholic to witness the increase of the great Catholic family, to see her children multiplying in numbers and growing strong in faith, to know that her saving influence is every day extending itself and gradually though surely bringing within its circle those who before thought of her with contempt, spoke of her but to deride. These reflections forced themselves upon my mind whilst witnessing the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on the occasion referred to. The ceremony was performed by our Rt. Rev. Bishop, who, before announcing the candidates, addressed to them a few remarks, in which with a grace and sweetness peculiarly his own, he explained to them the nature and the effects of the sacrament he was about to administer. By its reception, said he, you become soldiers of the Cross, and are strengthened to endure the attacks which the arch enemy of your salvation will make upon you. Over 200 were confirmed, and if the countenance be an index of the heart, theirs were surcharged with happiness, for joy such as the world cannot give, beamed from every eye, each face was radiant with contentment. I might dwell on the beautiful appearance of the children arrayed in white, encircling the altar, like a casket enclosing some priceless jewel—might mention (for the benefit of I will not say whom) the order, and attention and piety which they exhibited, but other things demand a passing notice, so I must hasten on.

The festival of St. Joseph has always been a gala day with the zealous pastor and congregation of this church, hence the additional ornaments with which the sanctuary is to-day bedecked, hence the crowd which, coming early (would that we could always say the same) fills to overflowing the spacious church, the choir, too, has caught the spirit of the day, and seems ready for something grand, and in truth did not disappoint us. High Mass was celebrated by the pastor, Rev. J. J. Conroy, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Kyle and Murphy, and the panegyric of the Saint was pronounced by the Rev. Father Larkin, of your city.

The exercises of the day finished with Vespers by the Rev. Mr. Daly, in which the little soldiers of the Cross, assisted with an attention and devotion becoming their new character.

It may not be out of place here to mention that the entire altar service, the magnificent gold chalice, pitchers, cruets, &c. used by the Bishop for the first time on St. Joseph's day, were the generous and beautiful gift of St. Joseph's congregation. Remembering your hint about brevity, and hoping that I have not trespassed too much on your space, to say nothing of your good nature, I remain yours, &c.

J. B.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Portier, Bishop of Mobile left this port on Wednesday last in the Liverpool Steamer. He is on his way direct to the Court of Rome, whither he is the bearer of the decrees and proceedings of the late Council. The Bishop expects to find the Pope yet at Gaeta, and it will be there he will seek him; but he will nevertheless visit the city of Rome for a day or two. He is at the same time accredited as bearer of dispatches from the Government at Washington, which will facilitate his visit.

Bishop Portier will press the Ecclesiastical mission with which he is entrusted with all possible dispatch, and before many months the sentences of the Holy See will have been ascertained. He has very kindly promised to favor us with his correspondence both from Paris and from Rome. We shall also be apprised of his proceedings, and of their result, at the very earliest moment.—*N. Y. Freeman.*