

STREETS LIKE SANCTUARY AISLES.

Overhead flags fluttered. The houses on each side, the banks and business establishments, were all decorated with green garlands and bright tapestry. The roadway was strewn with leaves. In many windows candles burned round a crucifix or Madonna. Window and balcony were crowded with ladies. No women but the Nuns were in the procession. Numerous as the processionists were, only a small number of the men in Cologne could find a place in the long column. But those who could not march lined the streets in dense crowds. And what crowds there were ! The few tourists and mere curious visitors were unnoticed in the vast throng. There were very few policemen—perhaps one every fifty yards. But the police had nothing to do. The people themselves kept order. For the moment the streets were like the aisles of some great sanctuary. Women and children and old people were given the front places. The men stood behind them. There was no pushing, no sign of the mere sight-seeing, holiday-making spirit. In many places as they waited the people said the rosary. The men stood bareheaded for hours in the sun, even before the Blessed Sacrament was within a mile of them. Our Lord was not yet passing, but this was his mighty escort marching by, and they paid honor to Him by respect for it.

Often the front rank of the crowd was a line of white-dressed school-girls. They held up garlands of flowers, or bunches of white lilies and red gladioli. Sometimes they bore the emblems of the Blessed Sacrament. Some had flowers ready to strew before the canopy. At the street corners altars blazed with lights. Before St Michael's Church acolytes waited with incense burning in thuribles. Before the Church of the Sacred Heart a beautiful statue of Our Lord stood on an improvised altar. Along the house fronts from the boulevard to the Church of St Maurice the verses of the *Te Deum* were inscribed. At the Church Children of Mary were grouped at the open door and looking in, one saw the altar lighted up. Beyond the Church to the Feumarket Square, and on the houses round it, tablets displayed the verses of the *Lauda*