

paid to the remains of our departed brethren. The Benediction of a burial ground is, therefore, in every respect, one of the most deeply interesting proceedings at which we can be present, and this if truth hold good as a general principle, it must apply with double force in the instance to which this work refers. The Benediction of the Cemetery of Little Bray formed an event which should not be forgotten by the people amongst whom it took place, whether considered with reference to the imposing and solemn ceremonial prescribed by the Roman Pontifical for such occasions, to the circumstances connected with the locality, destined as it is to form the final resting-place of the mortal remains of so many amongst us, and of those whom we love most on earth—or to the feelings entertained by all towards the distinguished Prelate who officiated, and who commenced, on the occasion, his episcopal labours, while he at the same time took his final leave of the parishioners amongst whom he had so long laboured, and by whom he was so justly and so ardently beloved and revered, in making holy the cold and narrow homes of those to whom he had imparted the divine consolations of religion in their hours of trial, sickness, and death.

From an early hour of the morning, thousands of the inhabitants of the surrounding districts had congregated in the vicinity of the Parochial Church of St. Peter, Little Bray, adjoining which is the Consecrated Cemetery; and considerable numbers of the gentry of the adjoining parishes and of the metropolis were also in attendance.

When eleven o'clock, the hour fixed for the commencement of the ceremony, arrived, Dr. Walsh proceeded from the choir to the sanctuary, vested in amict,

alb, cineture, stole, and white pluvial, wearing a plain mitre, and with the pastoral staff in his hand.

His Lordship having ascended the steps of the altar, proceeded to address the assembled congregation as follows: He said, that the first duty which he had to perform was to explain, in a few short sentences, the ceremony, which they had that day assembled to witness, as prescribed by the Pontifical. They would then proceed to the cemetery, where the benediction would take place, and they would afterwards return to the Church, where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass would be celebrated, and after which a Sermon would be preached on the Gospel of the day. His Lordship then proceeded. "It is the spirit and intention of our holy mother the Church, my dearly beloved brethren, that in all the holy ceremonies and rites of religion, the people shall be fully and sufficiently instructed by their clergy, before they take place, with regard to their meaning and signification; and as we have assembled here this day for the purpose of witnessing the benediction of the last resting place of the remains of the faithful departed, I will now proceed, in pursuance of the directions given in the Pontifical, to explain to you the object of the Church in prescribing the ceremony that is to take place on such occasions.

"At all times and in all countries, with very few exceptions, the greatest respect has been paid to the remains of mankind after death. Even amongst pagan nations the bodies of their departed friends have been almost always treated with veneration and respect. Amongst the ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as among the chosen people of God, solemn rites were ordained for the dead. These rites and ceremo-