

people have a procession there every 100 years. There was one this present year, which was very extraordinary for grandeur, splendour, and concourse of people. What were the cardinal points of attraction in this procession? Do not think I exaggerate. I am only about to quote the French newspapers, which were copied by the English newspapers, and especially by the English Catholic newspapers. The first great point of attraction, of spiritual attraction, in this procession was twenty beautiful girls, dressed to represent angels of God. These twenty beautiful girls—French girls—wore muslin opera dresses, and on their shoulders were beautiful silver wings, and in their hands were bouquets of flowers to wave before the image of the Virgin Mary; and so effective was this part of the display, that the French newspapers say that all the people were excited to devotion and morality by it. But this was nothing to the second point of spiritual attraction in the procession, which was—I still quote the French newspapers—Cardinal Wiseman himself (applause). You will all ask why was he so attractive in this procession. Was it by his faith—his zeal—devotion—fervour? No. The French newspapers say that Cardinal Wiseman was pre-eminently distinguished by his lace, his embroidered cloth, his jewelled mitre, and above all—by a very long red tail which was carried behind him (great laughter and applause). The Irish people rioted in mobs for the purpose of defending their processions. Ah! they defend them because they are spiritual. The nature of these processions is very—very holy. Yes! Holy and spiritual. Twenty beautiful girls and the red tail of Cardinal Wiseman (laughter)! Oh! go and defend your processions (laughter). I have plenty of reason to conclude the second part of my lecture, by stating that the practice of these processions in the Church of Rome is pagan in their nature. But from practices which are pagan in their origin and pagan in their nature, what can you expect but pagan effects? These processions are intended to materialize and deceive the Christian people. Present me by the Bible with an idea of God—present me by the gospel the redemption of Christ; this is all for my spirit,