

Procession of the Blessed Sacrament in Constantinople.

*From the special correspondent of the Catholic Times,
Liverpool.*



WE had seen nearly all that a tourist generally desires to inspect in Constantinople, so on Thursday, the 17th of June, I thought little more remained to be seen. But an agreeable surprise was in store for us. Going through the chief street of Pera, Constantinople, along with some friends of the city, we were surprised to see the houses decorated with flags, while on the front and in the archways of the parochial church, served by the Conventual Franciscans, banners and garlands covered the walls and clustered around the Papal flag. Though it was the octave of Corpus Christi, no one of the party dreamed of the real meaning of the festive attire of the locality. Mussulman Constantinople, with its little group of 20,000 Latin Catholics among a population of 1,000,000 Turks, Greeks, Schismatics, Protestants, and all the other offshoots of heresy or schism, was not surely going to do honor to the Catholic Church !

"We are going to have a public procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 4.30 this evening," observed a French Catholic quietly. "The procession will file through the principal streets for the space of nearly an hour."

If a thunderbolt had fallen in our midst the party could not be more astonished, especially since among the flags, there were those of Turkey, France, Italy and England. And somebody then asked would the procession be liable to molestation on the part of the Turkish soldiers or Moslems.

"During the procession," went on the Frenchman, "the trams and cabs, will stop, and order will be main-