

on the same altar of the Confession, and the Sovereign Pontiff, preceded by his magnificent and imposing train, goes processionally to carry to the venerated Madonna the diadem prepared by the signal piety of the Chapter of St. Peter's. With his sacred hands he deposited the precious crown upon the brow of the august Sovereign of Heaven and earth, of the glorious Queen of the Church; in presence of the whole court of the Church Militant, in presence, too, of the whole court of the Church Triumphant; for it is not permitted to doubt that the Angels assisted at that *fête* in which she whom they had eighteen centuries and a half since saluted with these words: *Ave Maria, gratia plena*, is to-day saluted by those other words: *Ave Maria, sine labe originali concepta*! a double salutation which is only one, for the last is the development, the completion of the first, Reign, then, for ever, O glorious Princess! O most beloved Mother! crowned doubly in Heaven by thy Son, who is God, on the earth by the Vicar of thy Son, who is the Pope Pius IX, by the Universal Church, and by all the Christian people!

We might now leave the basilica of St. Peter's, where the ceremony has been concluded, so to say, in transmitting to posterity a visible sign which will not perish; but it is necessary before doing so to point out two or three incidents which have singularly affected the few persons who witnessed them. Do you see that sedan chair which, at half-past eight o'clock, is carried towards the confession by the servants of the Holy Father in their red and brilliant livery? They walk with precaution and respect; they are conducting to the *fête* a holy and learned Bishop, invited by the Holy Father, seized on the voyage by sickness, and who wished to brave the fatigues of a long