

BY NATHAN D. URNER.

THUS WAS ASCENSION THURSDAY ushered in at the church of Knock, Mass after Mass was being celebrated by the pilgrim priests who are to be seen with him before the feast. The testimony of its sacred character was to be confirmed in the miraculous acts that were that day effected. The first of those that I witnessed was in the person of a Miss Sheehan who hailed from Mallow, a young woman who seemed to be very religiously disposed, and a confirmed invalid previous to her coming. For the past thirteen years, she has been deprived the use of one of her legs, which was so contracted that she could scarcely touch the ground with the top of her foot, and was obliged, in consequence, to carry a crutch; but lo! on this day, she so far recovered that she could walk without fear for the ground, and with such perfect ease, that she walked about with only the aid of a stick, leaving her crutch behind on the gable as a symbol of her cure. After six or seven other cures had been accomplished, some of which I likewise witnessed, this memorable day set in night, but with a calm sky, and calm sea, the voices, whose prayer might be heard in the night air, ascended to heaven, with the same fervor, increasing devotion, that characterized it every act throughout the day. In the evening there was something weird-like in the citation of the Rosary, as they knelt round the great statue of the Mother of the Blessed Virgin which was lit up with tapers, and this still night, when so many voices were heard in response, seemed to savour much of the preternatural.

How happy and pleased was I, at being one of the motley group who kept the night watch in prayer and meditation on this occasion, and who were witnesses of one of the tip-top of expectation, regarding those extraordinary visions with which some are favored; yet, after all, I cannot say that any such remarkable features

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

S GREAT SERMON AT OXFORD

[illegible]

IT WAS A GREAT MYSTERY OF GOD,
and miserable were those who did not

taken from St. John vi., where Christ
hearers, understanding him there

"In Thuringia, where the population is wholly Evangelical, the average of legitimate births in the towns is 12.0, at Albrecht 14.5, Coburg 12.8, Hildburghausen 10.8, Weimar 8.8. If marriage be a civil contract, then that contract may be dissolved, and a fresh one entered into without scandal. The law has been drawn in Germany so that the civil board may dissolve the tie, and dissolve it for the most trivial reasons. Yet the percentage of divorce is not as high as might be expected. The actual number of divorces of persons of both sexes in Germany at the close of December 1, 1871, was only 69,666. In Prussia 30,000, in Saxony 13,377, in Wurtemberg 32, in Bavaria 11, in Baden 10. The reason of the average being no higher is that divorces are a thing wholly against the Protestants, and amongst them are confined to the clergy, professional, and noble classes, whereas in the country districts the divorce is almost unknown. It is due also to the fact that the number of those who return themselves divorced at a census does not represent half of those who have been divorced. A general rule two-thirds of those who are divorced marry again. Consequently the average for Prussia should be 90 in 100, instead of 30. In Transylvania the

The next day but one, the Mother prior received a letter from the chief father, naming the very day and hour of the above occurrence, and stating that he had been walking through the streets of London, when, suddenly, a most violent and vehement conviction awoke in him that life was impossible to him unless he found some faith, and also that the Catholic faith alone was the true one. He went immediately in search of a priest, and at a time he wrote his letter was actually received into the church, and witnessed such wonderful instances as faith and confidence can obtain, and but cry: "Lord, I believe! help thou my unbelief."—*F. M. in the Annals of the Lady of the Angels.*

At the English College, Valladolid, Spain, Mass is sung every Saturday to students as an act of reparation to the Blessed Virgin for the insults offered to her statues, who are carried by her image through the streets of the three hundred times ago.