

deric at length left the peasant and went to dine at the inn.

The peasants, who had stopped their labors, mounted guard on the road, waiting for the soldiers but they, not wishing to have the honor of contending with them, did not again appear.

To be Continued.

General Intelligence.

POPE PIUS IX.

CARDINAL MASTAI, FOUNDER OF A FEMALE PENITENTIARY.

It cannot but be interesting to every Catholic to learn the manner in which, unconsciously, the Cardinal Mastai was preparing himself for the most interesting duties of the Pontificate, during the last year that God left him in the rank of a simple Prelate of his Church.

At the very period when political intrigues were forcing themselves into the bosom of the Sacred College, and filling with bitterness and anguish the last days of the Pontiff, of sainted memory, whose loss the Church at this moment laments, in what was the immediate successor of Gregory XVI. engaged at Imola? He was consecrating his thoughts, exhausting his resources, his activity and his tenderness in founding a refuge for female penitents. This was for him the work of God; in that his thoughts were unceasingly engaged. 'I see,' he writes, on May 12th, 1845, 'the lost daughters of the world soliciting admission into the fold of Jesus.' He bought them a house; arranged everything for the reception of two Sisters of the 'Good Shepherd' who had been promised to him; he awaited day after day to instal them himself;—these are his own expressions—and then, suddenly, at the moment in which he thought everything combined for that purpose, he perceived 'that his wishes had been too precipitate;' he begged a Nun, to whom he wrote, to request the Lady Superioress d'Angers to be so kind as to console him. 'Permit me to speak to you,' he writes 'with the confidence of a father, and to make you my interpreter with her; ask her to have the goodness to console me; fully persuaded of having well placed my confidence when bestowing it on one of the cherished daughters of the Lady Superioress General. I await a prompt reply to my request, thinking she will be favourable to me, addressing myself to the charity of a mother who has already communicated her zeal to her daughter.'

A month later, on June 9th, 1845, he wrote to the Lady Superioress d'Angers a letter, in which he portrayed all his solicitude. In it he went into an examination of everything; he entered into

the most minute details. However minute they were, we find them so touching, from the pen of him who was destined—almost on that day twelve months—to be the Chief of the Universal Church, that we cannot resist the pleasure of quoting the entire text of the letter:—

"Imola, June 8, 1845.

"Very Reverend Mother—With pleasure I have learned the dispositions of your Reverence in favour of the request I made to the Lady Superioress at Rome, soliciting the assistance of some Sisters of the Good Shepherd, for a House of Retreat that I have just got in readiness for young females who have wandered from the good path, and whom I am desirous of bringing again into it. I informed the said Lady that the Sisters would find a decent residence; but that at present I found myself under the hard necessity of being unable to support more than two Sisters, to whom I would confide about twelve young females. I moreover informed her I would find a woman to execute any commissions and to serve in the house; her valet would perform commissions out of doors. I repeat again to your reverence that for the future I foresee other resources; and that then I will ask from you not only four, but even more of your daughters to labour in the salvation of souls. I recollect also that I told the Superioress at Rome that, desirous of trusting in Providence, three Sisters might be sent: I was only fearful lest the third Sister, whilst wanting nothing that was needful, might have to suffer some little privations. I added that it would be well if the Sisters could come during the present month of June to make all the arrangements necessary in the house, such as those of furniture and linen, before the reception of the young females. For the rest be assured of my pastoral solicitude for your children which you will send to me. I will procure for them all the assistance of which they may stand in need; and I flatter myself that God the Sovereign Pastor of Souls, will second my efforts and deign to bless the good work I have undertaken.

"I am, with the most distinguished esteem and consideration

"Yours affectionately in J. C.

"J. M. CARD. MASTAI, Bishop."

In short, three months afterwards, the prayers of the Holy Pontiff were heard. Four Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who left the mother house at Angers towards the end of August, arrived at Bologna the 2nd of September, and the next day they were in the court of the Bishop of Imola.—The house destined to receive them at the head of their young penitents was not ready; they had to alight at the Bishop's Palace. Imagine the surprise of these simple girls at the sight of these magnificent saloons of Italy adorned with gilding sculptures, and paintings of great value. "We