

head of the Catholic church, maintains an establishment rather suited to his former supremacy, than to the limited and almost nominal jurisdiction which he now exercises. The great council of the church consists of the college of cardinals, who, according to the regular establishment, amount to seventy: they are chosen by the pope, and on their part they elect him out of their body. Every fortnight they are assembled in a consistory, to deliberate on the general affairs of the church. Particular departments are also administered by congregations, which have not the signification which we attach to them, but signify public boards. There is a congregation *de propagandâ fide*, for missions to foreign parts and the conversion of heretics; the congregation of the *index*, for making up the list of prohibited books. The Jesuits, since their re-establishment in 1817, have also their head-quarters at Rome, where their *general* resides. The inquisition, now much mitigated in its rigour, forms one of these congregations. There are thirty-eight archbishops in Italy; and the number of suffragans varies according to the pleasure of the pope. The clergy, both secular and regular, were, prior to the Revolution, very numerous; and their possessions were immense, consisting chiefly in land. The tithes were not very severe, and in Tuscany had been altogether abolished. During the French revolutionary sway there was an extensive confiscation of ecclesiastical, and especially of conventual property; and though this has been partly restored, much still remains in the hands of the lay purchasers. It is said that not much benefit has thence accrued to the cultivators, who have merely found a new and often more rigid landlord. Another means of support to the church is from alms; and the two most powerful modern orders, the Dominicans and Franciscans, have expressly announced themselves as mendicant; but the spirit of the times renders this source of wealth much less productive than formerly.

The ceremonies of the Roman Catholic church are exhibited at Rome in all their imposing splendour. Mr. Eustace considers the pontifical service at St. Peter's, and the procession on Corpus Christi day, as, perhaps, the most magnificent spectacles that are exhibited in the universe. All the parade of dress, the blaze of light, and the pomp of music, are united in the magnificent hall of the Vatican, and the vast area of the church of St. Peter, to produce the most imposing and brilliant effect: one of the most striking scenes is said to be in St. Peter's, on the night of Good Friday, when the hundred lamps that burn over the tomb of the Apostle are at once extinguished, and in their stead a stupendous cross of light appears suspended from the dome: in one part of the ceremonies the Pope makes a show of washing the feet of pilgrims, while in another he bestows his benediction on the assembled multitude. These great days are preceded by periods of severe fasting, and followed by a carnival, or interval of almost unbounded license. The gloom of the first period is described by Lady Morgan as enlivened by busy preparation in draping the churches, clothing altars, and forming festoons; also in preparing dresses, crowns, necklaces, and cradles for the Madonna and Child of the respective churches. Sometimes the Virgin blazes in pearls and diamonds; sometimes she can only get a tin crown, set off with gilt paper and glass beads. Mary, according to Mrs. Graham, is the goddess of Italy; even the robbers, who are generally devout, never go forth on a marauding expedition, without her image carefully tied round the neck.

In literature and science, the world is deeply indebted to Italy; first for the classical works which she produced during her Augustan age; and then for the brilliant revival of literature, under her auspices, after a long night of ignorance. In the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries she could boast of Petrarch, Dante, Tasso, and Ariosto, as standing in the first class of poets; Guicciardini, Fra Paolo, Machiavel, unrivalled among the historians of their own and several succeeding ages; and Galileo as attaining the highest distinction in astronomy and physical science. Along with the political ascendancy of Italy, her literary greatness has suffered decay; the magnificent patronage of the Medici and the Estes was no longer extended to it; and the national enthusiasm, by which it had been fed, was depressed by slavery and adversity. Italy, however, has not ceased from time to time to produce distinguished works. The lyrics of Giridi, Chiabrera, Filicaja, have attracted admiration; and the drama, which had been wanting in its fortunate age, was brought forward in a very imposing manner by Alfieri and Monti. At the same time the political works of Filangieri, Beccaria, and Verri, have displayed highly enlightened views; and Spallanzani, Fontana, and others have acquired distinction in medical and physical science.

The literary collections of Italy are of singular value: the library of the Vatican, if not the most extensive, is probably the most valuable, in Europe; the number of volumes (a simple fact, which might be easily ascertained,) has been left to conjecture, which fluctuates, according to Mr. Eustace, between 200,000 and 1,000,000: he advises to take the middle, which makes a very vague kind of estimate. The manuscripts, the most curious and valuable part, are reckoned by him at 50,000, but by Mr. Cadell only at 20,000. They comprise very early copies of the gospels, the classics, and writers of the middle age. The French extorted the surrender of 500, to be selected by themselves; but if (as reported by Lady Morgan) the choice was capriciously made by illiterate officers, it may not have materially reduced the value of the collection. The Ricciardi and Magliabecchi libraries, at Florence,