

seen a higher expression of Catholic unity? Oh! but it was beautiful! but it was agreeable to the Lord, that innumerable assembly, in which all hearts throbbed like one for love of Mary, in which only one mouth was opened as it were, although all spoke, first to beg light from the Holy Ghost in unison with the Holy Father, the Bishops, and the Clergy, afterwards to thank God and salute Mary crowned with the diadem of the Immaculate Conception; for in that consists one of the characteristics the most touching and the most catholic of this admirable *fête*! Scarcely issued from the lips of the Vicar of Christ, the invocation of the Spirit of light and of love is found upon all lips, and one might have said that only a single voice, a voice composed of fifty thousand voices, mounted to Heaven. So the "Te Deum" was no sooner intoned by the Supreme Pontiff than it rose throughout the entire basilica, and it was a hymn boundless in thanks and gratitude, an immense, a universal acclamation of the glorious privilege of Mary. A prayer, ardent and unanimous, which the salvos of the artillery and the pealing of the bells of the city carried to Heaven, and deposited at the feet of the Immaculate Virgin.

But that brilliant crown, which the word of the Vicar of Jesus Christ had just placed upon the blessed head of our Queen and our Mistress, shall it not have a material sign which will symbolize it, and transmit the memory of it to future generations? Pius IX thinks so. A crown of the finest gold, enriched with the most precious stones, is prepared to decorate the head of the Immaculate Virgin, which the mosaic art has represented, *in æternum*, above the high altar of the Chapel of the Canons. After the "Te Deum" this splendid diadem is blessed by the Pope