

of usefulness, have instituted a counsel of ministers in which matters of the gravest nature are to be deliberated on, after due examinations and decision thereupon, reported to us and defined by our authority."

His Holiness was also pleased to promote to the Bishopric of Velletri, his Eminence Cardinal Macchi Dean of the Sacred College; to the Bishopric of Porto and S. Rufina, his Eminence Cardinal Lambruschini; to the Bishopric of Sabina, his Eminence Cardinal Brignole.

The public consistory in which the Cardinal's Hat will be conferred on the new elected, and also on Cardinal Baluffi, created in the Consistory of December last, and then absent from Rome, was to have been held on Monday afternoon.

RECEPTION BY THE NEW CARDINALS.

On the evenings of the 12th and 13th instant, public receptions were held at the palaces of the new Cardinals, whither the other members of the Sacred College, the diplomatic body, the aristocracy, and all respectable persons desiring to pay that tribute, repaired to congratulate their Eminences. The palaces in most parts of the city, and especially those of the new Cardinals, with all the contiguous houses, were illuminated with wax torches and coloured paper lamps. In front of each palace were erected two orchestras where military bands performed during the hours the receptions lasted. H. E., the Ambassador of France, also received at the Palazzo Colonna, congratulations on behalf of the French Archbishops, now Cardinals.

THE PREFECTSHIP OF THE SACRED CONGREGATION.

The death of the Eminent Cardinal Micara having left vacant the Prefectship of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, his Holiness has been pleased to bestow that office on the Eminent Cardinal Luigi Lambruschini, Bishop of Sabina, and Secretary of the Pontific briefs. His Holiness has been pleased to enrol among the component members of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences and Holy Relics their Eminences the Cardinal Patrizi, Vanucelli-Casoli and Simonetti.

BENEVOLENCE OF THE POPE.

His Holiness on returning from his late journey to Subiaco, passed some hours at Vicovaro in the house of the Count Bolognetti. Learning from the Parish Priest that a poor man in the village was in a state of suffering, although living in a part of difficult access, his Holiness went in person to visit the invalid, consoling him by his words and Apostolic Benediction, and also leaving a considerable sum of money for his support.

THE OCTAVE OF CORPUS DOMINI.

On Thursday evening, the 10th, the procession for the Octave of Corpus Domini did not, as usual

pass round the Piazza of St. Peter's, the weather being unfavourable, but was confined within the limits of the Church. Of all the functions, this is perhaps the most solemnly beautiful; being the only one of this scale and splendour that takes place within St. Peter's at a late hour, the usual character of gorgeousness in the celebrations of that Temple is subdued by the gradual deepening, and giving fine relief to the rich details of the whole. The illumination of the Papal altar, superb as it is, only receives effect from, without dispelling the dimness of the vast sanctuary; its light throws a mysterious aspect over the group of richly vested Ecclesiastics, or sparkles on sword and battle axe or brazen helmet among the crowded ranks of guards adding something of chivalrous pomp to the scene. After some time passed in adoration with music and chanting, the procession begins to form, first in the nave, then at the altar looking up the broad aisle, the scene is singularly beautiful, the whole length of pavement between the long files of military appearing converted into a greensward so thickly is it strewn with laurel and myrtle leaves.—Hundreds of lights gradually start from the shadowy perspective, as one by one the Confraternities each with its colossal cross formed and painted to look like the gnarled trunk of a tree, the crucifix with a silk arching canopy, the immense banner with a picture of some Saint and other symbols, detach themselves from the lateral groups, and file into the centre of the nave. A graceful feature in the procession is the band of the orphan girls, who have received dowries from a charitable institution and now (almost the only occasion when females took part in the pageants of religion) are allowed to walk veiled and each bearing a torch, in the procession—something unearthly looking is there in this long veiled and white robed train, as it slowly passes from the altar, into the distance.

The Cardinal Archpriest, in white vestments, bears the host under an ample canopy, and His Holiness, wearing the scarlet mozetta, follows immediately after, succeeded by the rest of the sacred college all in scarlet. After making the circuit the procession returns to the high altar, the host is placed aloft amid the blaze of light, and after more chanting and prayer the benediction is given by the Cardinal, whilst his Holiness kneels before the steps, and during this rite the most soft exquisitely solemn notes ascend from the organ, perfectly in accord with the awfulness of the moment.—Amongst the crowds on such occasion may be seen the rudest and most poorly clad, beside the highest and in close proximity to all the splendour of functionaries. The conduct of the people is reverential, in spite of their eagerness to see the ceremonies, and especially the sacred person of his holiness