

Editorial Notes.

Requiem in Rome.

"The Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria was celebrated on Monday the 19th inst. in the Church of *St. Maria in Transpontina*, and was of a most imposing character. Special places were reserved for the representatives of various continental governments, and also for the diplomatic representatives accredited to the Holy See. His Eminence, Cardinal Rampolla, Pontifical Secretary of State, pontificated. The Mass was celebrated by command of the Holy Father. Various members of the Diplomatic Corps were absent from Rome at the time of the assassination of Her Majesty, but they received instructions from their governments to return in time for this Solemn Requiem. The scene in the church was intensely impressive, and the crowd enormous. The number of ecclesiastical dignitaries in their robes, either of scarlet or purple, contrasted strikingly with the full dress of the foreign Ambassadors, and the military uniforms of different nationalities. The music was magnificent, its solemn tones appealing to the very hearts of the worshippers, whose feelings, already overstrung, found vent in tears." Thus the Roman correspondent of the Chicago *New World*. To this we add the fact that Santa Maria in Transpontina is the mother-church of the Carmelites and to it is attached the residence of our reverend Father General.

Seasonable.

Up to this issue we have fortunately been able to print a seasonable frontispiece each month. The one of St. Theresa in October was much praised. Strange to say this month's illustration seems out of place. Nevertheless it is inserted intentionally, simply because our limited means force us to use what

we have—and it is something borrowed at that. However, we hope our readers will soon help us to continue a series of appropriate pictures. It is not hard for the pious imagination to make the present cut of the Visitation a seasonable one—for will not our divine Mother, urged by our prayers, make frequent errands of mercy to Purgatory during November? Besides, we are reminded to visit our graveyards this month—there to pour forth our charity in prayers for the suffering souls.

The Religious Garb.

Our American monks and friars should wear their religious costume always and *everywhere*, according to the *Church Progress*, for "a religious without his habit is like a fowl without feathers." The advice is good, and the sight of the religious garb would be an object lesson to our separated brethren. In some parts of this land our Carmelites, dressed in their habit, go abroad for long distances unmolested. It was an odd sight at first, but people soon became accustomed to it. By degrees the custom can be introduced elsewhere. However, *festina lente!* The habit is a blessed article, and it seems imprudent in some places to expose it to disrespect. When feasible, superiors will make the continual wearing of the habit obligatory, and their subjects will be glad to obey. The comparison of the *Church Progress*, in advising the monks to do as the nuns do, does not seem a just one. Woman, religious or secular, is respected throughout the length and breadth of the land, and can go where she pleases. She can dress as suits her own sweet will, with or without feathers. The day will come when the esteemed editor of the *Church Progress* can hang a holy-water font on the door of his sanctum with impunity, and the "featherless" friar wear his habit always and everywhere.