

appearance. He was carried through the crowd with vast ceremony, and received the homage of the public with a becoming dignity; after which he was again lodged in his chapel, where he daily performs a number of miracles, to those who have plenty of money and faith to spare.

His ministers, however, a set of greasy capuchins, did not seem to have enriched themselves in his service. St. Benedict, who does not pretend to half his sanctity, keeps his servants in far better plight.

The devotees continued to dance in soft Sicilian measures till after sun-set, when they retired. Many of the country girls were extremely handsome, and all, being in their holiday clothes, made a good appearance.

One part of the ceremony had a grand effect. About two thousand small iron cannon, not more than six inches long, were planted in a triple row before the church, and rammed to the muzzle with powder. A train being laid between them, they went off so quick, that that the ear could not separate the reports, which were re-echoed for some time, after the firing was finished, from the high mountains on either side of the straights.

In their perambulations round the city and its vicinity, their senses were recreated by the perfumes of various aromatic plants and shrubs. Many beautiful flowers grow wild on the surrounding mountains, and the fields about Messina were covered with the richest white clover. Even the salt, produced here by the heat of the sun, emits a grateful odour, resembling violets; as was sensibly perceived on walking near the harbour.

The houses in Messina are handsome and extremely low rented. Provisions, especially fish, are likewise very reasonable; and our author thinks,