

gia. The large balcony in the middle of the façade of St. Peter's Cathedral is covered with a red carpet, a large sailcloth being drawn over it as protection against the sun. The pope is borne thither on the *Sedia Gestatoria*, and remains sitting upon it while he pronounces the *Indulgentiam absolutionem omnium peccatorum vestrorum spatium veræ et fructuosæ penitentiæ cor semper pœnitens et emendationem vitæ gratiam et consolationem Sancti Spiritus et finalem perseverantiam in bonis operibus tribuat vobis omnipotens et misericors Dominus* (The Lord, almighty and merciful, grant unto you indulgence, absolution of all your sins, time of true and fruitful repentance, a heart always penitent, and amendment of life, the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit, and final perseverance in good works), to which the singers answered "Amen." Thereupon the pope, rising from his seat and directing his eyes to heaven, stretches out his hands and gives the blessing as he three times makes the sign of the cross and says: *Et benedictio Dei omnipotentis Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti descendat super vos et maneat semper* (And the benediction of God, the Father Almighty, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain always), whereupon the choir answers with "Amen." The pope seats himself and the two cardinal deacons read, the one in Italian, the other in Latin, the formula of the *Indulgentia plenaria*, which the pope gives to those present, and then they throw down the two formulas which they have just read into the crowd, which eagerly struggles to get them, while the cardinals look down over the balcony at the struggling people with a smile. Then the pope rises, pronounces a simple benediction, and is carried away, and the festivity is at an end. Up to the time of Clement XIV. the reading of the bull *In Cœna Domini* preceded the benediction.

Fourth—The foot-washing of the apostles in St. Peter's on the right hand of the baldachin on a carpet, placed there for the occasion, in which is worked the "Last Supper" of Da Vinci, and over against the balcony erected for the princes and occupied to-day by the Prussian princes and the sons of Don Carlos. The apostles, by rights, ought to be leading clericals of different lands who have made pilgrimages to Rome for the Holy Week. But they choose such foreign clericals as are stationed in Rome, and for a number of years they are said to have been the same ones. The reason for the number being thirteen instead of twelve is that when Gregory the Great fed twelve poor people on the Cœlius Hill an angel was found in their midst. So runs the legend. They are dressed in white. As soon as the pope ascends his throne the account of the foot-washing (John xiii.) is sung. Then the pope kisses the carpet, girds himself with an apron, and on his knees washes one apostle's feet after the other in a golden basin, dries with a towel, and kisses them. With this act of humility is greatly contrasted the service of two chamberlains, who carry the pope's *falda*, as well as the elegance of the washing apparatus.