

Popish ceremonies in this country, I proceed to give you a brief statement of the scenes which came under my observation. The building was densely crowded. From the means of accommodation it affords, I judged that there could not have been less than 2,000 persons present, exclusive of some 250 children who were placed on the right and left of the altar and not visible to the general congregation. Notwithstanding the presence of so large a number of persons the utmost order and silence were observed during the ceremonies. A minimum charge of 1s. 3d. was made at the door for admission, exclusive of a subsequent demand by the Sisters of Charity, two of whom made a collection during the prayers, apparently with good effect. An arch was erected for the occasion in the eastern wing of the building, which was covered with blue and white linen on which was inscribed "My soul doth magnify the Lord." To the right and left were two smaller arches of similar construction, beneath which the officiating priests were seated, and on which the following Douay scripture extracts were written:—"Thou art all fair and there is none like unto Thee." "My soul doth magnify the Lord."—"Hail! full of grace."—"Generations shall call thee blessed." Within the centre and principal arch stood a figure of the Virgin Mary on the apex of a pyramid. The figure was about four feet in height, apparently composed of wood, and covered with gold leaf; a circle of golden stars surrounded the head, and the arms were stretched out to give an expression of supplication. A canopy of white calico extended over and to the rear of the statue on which were displayed the constellations, the pointers of *Ursa Major* being directly over the head of the figure. Two blue and two white candles were placed at the feet of the image, whilst the front and sides of the structure were thickly studded with about 300 candles, glass shades to produce reflection of light, and wax flowers *ad infinitum*. At the base stood the altar, opposite which Bishop Charbonnel officiated. The altar image and canopy were so placed that the partakers of the communion, as they raised their heads for the Bishop to place the Sacramental bread upon their tongues, would have in their view the priests, the lighted candles, the burning of the incense, the altar, the figure of the virgin and the representation of the starry firmament in the order I have mentioned them. There were fourteen boys and eight priests exclusive of Bishop Charbonnel, engaged in conducting the ceremonies. During the proceedings, the Bishop alternately wore two mitres, one of which was rather plain and flimsy, but the