

enter and assist at the religious ceremonies. The chapel is on the second floor, and as you walk up the broad marble stairs and through several long passages, hung with rich tapestries, and lined with men servants in the gorgeous livery of the House, you get a never-to-be-forgotten glimpse of medieval grandeur.

The servants point out the direction for the visitors to follow, otherwise they are motionless ; a double line of living statues !

The chapel is magnificent, all the altar plate of pure gold, the vestments and altar furniture rich beyond expression. The Massimo palace was built early in the 16th century, the chapel of St. Philip Nery was originally a sleeping room, the identical room in which the miracle was performed.

And now I must say a word about the family so favored by Heaven. The Present princess Massimo, whom we knew personally, devotes her whole life to good works ; she is a mother to the poor, the mainstay of the papal authority. In appearance she is tall and noble looking, the words of Longfellow describing a heroine might be addressed to her : " Every step, every attitude inspired by the soul within. . . . . And what a soul is here ! A temple dedicated to Heaven, and like the Pantheon, lighted only from above. And earthly passions are no longer there, but the sweet and thoughtful faces of Christ, and the Virgin Mary, and the saints."

A very interesting book entitled " Society in Rome " came out during our stay ; it was written by a Russian diplomat attached to the corps of the Quirinal ; and, in the chapters on " Le Corps Diplomatique " and " Le Grand Monde " he pays a glowing tribute to the virtuous ladies of the " Black Court ". Of the princess Massimo he writes : " I cannot call to mind a face that combines so much nobility, dignity and sweetness as that of the Princess Massimo. . . . . She has brought up her children admirably . . . . Notwithstanding his near relationship to the King the Prince Massimo is *noir sur noir*, and in this the Princess encourages him. Almost all the sovereigns of Europe are near relations of the Prince and Princess Massimo."

St. Philip Neri was canonised by Gregory XIV in 1662.