

## NEWMAN AS A CATHOLIC.



**S**TANDING in the salon of England's premier duke one afternoon in the month of August 1880 was an old man of seventy nine years. Before him passed the representatives of the first families in England, the exclusive nobility and the aristocracy of education, birth and wealth. There in the mansion of the scion of its first Catholic family was offered England's gracious testimony of homage to Newman who lately had been raised to the dignity of one of the Princes of the Church. The highest tribute to the unshaken faith and fidelity of the great Oratorian had now been paid by Leo XIII. whose wisdom and judgment the universal opinion of the world soon endorsed.

Looking back in retrospect over what had happened in the annals of that life since that eventful day of October 10th, 1845, we find that the great object of his work was to bring back England to its primitive Catholic Christianity. To that end he dedicated his years within the Church and to its attainment all else was subordinate. The drama of his life affords such an unfolding as truly wonderful as majestic.

Newman comes to our vision at a time when the "Kindly Light" had shown him the pathway of Rome. He came within the Church whilst midway in life, in the maturity of his powers and in all the grandeur of his noble manhood. Unlike many converts he had not been tossed by doctrines fashioned to the varying hour but had held to the tenets of the Anglican church conscientiously for he believed until 1845 that the church of Laud and Cranmer was the legitimate successor of that of St. Athanasius. With singular tenacity and concentration of purpose he adhered to his study of the Fathers of the Church and thus was prepared for the movement of 1833—1845 which threatened to overthrow every cherished doctrine of the Anglican Establishment. The crises came in 1845. And in the October of that year was consummated for Newman that change which had its foundation in his own Oxford. But what shall be said of that change? What of the trials of his mind, of the grief of separation from friends, the severance from devoted followers, the habits of life and thought