

which we live, evidences of the persecutions to which the Church in our day is subjected. It may be that the Church has undergone more severe trials since her institution, but I doubt much if at any epoch there has been a more dangerous assault. Before, the world and its rulers were openly in arms against the spouse of our Lord. Then, men belonged to one of two parties; they were either oppressors of the Church, or her faithful children. But now, alas! we have a third party. We have those who would be styled liberal Catholics. Now they cling to the Church, and to-morrow they adhere to the world. I know not if you have such among you in America, and I trust there are none; for to them do we owe the many present evils which afflict the Church. This party has been in our day and time the greatest enemy against whom we have to contend. I experience, then, a great consolation in beholding you assembled here this evening. I am proud that I can offer you my poor rooms as a place for you to meet. I see in you a devoted band of true Catholics, who fear not the world, but who glory in the profession of Catholic faith. You have come to bring comfort and consolation to our Holy Father. In our days, the true means to be employed is union. Let people and priests and bishops be united as one man, and we cannot fear the result. Let all cling to the Rock on which the Church is built. I again thank you for coming here to-night.

On Sunday morning, at seven o'clock, His Eminence Cardinal Franchi celebrated Mass in the newly discovered basilica of Flavia Domitilla. This remarkable discovery was made by that illustrious and apparently indefatigable archæologist, the Cavaliere de Rossi, to whom all lovers of ecclesiastical history, and even the science of theology, owe so much, for the many convincing evidences of the practices of the early Christians which he has brought to light. Mgr. De Merodi, at whose expense the excavations were being carried on, was present, and had everything nicely arranged for the Pilgrims. This basilica is entirely under ground. It was covered on the occasion with a large canvas awning, to protect the Pilgrims from the rays of the sun. It was a moving spectacle there, where so many Christians had come in pious pilgrimage to venerate the relics of the martyrs, to find again those of the same faith kneeling and assisting at the same sacrifice. At seven o'clock all the Pilgrims and the other guests were assembled at these venerated ruins.