

to leave the house, unless for a short airing, and particularly not to go to the obsequies to-morrow, nor to the funeral on Thursday. The remembrance of the extraordinary kindness with which the illustrious deceased honoured me, while the expression of his esteem was sufficient to confer honour upon the most exalted by rank or dignity; will naturally excite surprise at my absence on such occasions among those who know me, and especially if my absence be noticed by the immediate relatives of that great man. I beg, therefore, that you will take the trouble, as occasion may offer, to explain the reason why I am not found, where if I could be, I ought to be; and that you will assure the beloved family who are the chief sufferers, and whose most severe trial I deeply lament, that though I cannot attend at the obsequies in the church or at the funeral procession, to-morrow and Thursday shall be consecrated by me to fervent prayer for the immortal soul whose eternal happiness is now the fondest desire of those who best loved him.

"I have the honour to be, with great esteem and respect, reverend and dear Sir, your ever faithful servant,

✠ MICHAEL BLAKE.

"The Rev. Peter Cooper, &c., &c."

THE OFFICE

commenced a little after eleven—the Rev. Doctors Laphen, and O'Hanlon, acting as chaunters. The nine lessons of the nocturns were read by nine of the prelates present. Peculiarly mournful, indeed, on this mournful occasion, was the low deep chaunt of the solemn office for the dead. The joyous notes of the organ were hushed. Nothing was heard but the saddest and most solemn tones the human voice can produce, over which ever and anon was heard the tolling of the death bell, which ceased not to remind the city of the loss it had sustained.

THE GRAND HIGH MASS.

The grand high mass, at which the Right Rev. Doctor Whelan acted as celebrant, Doctor Cooper as Deacon, Rev. Mr. Murphy, as Sub-Deacon, Rev. Mr. Keogh, as senior master of ceremonies, and the Rev. Mr. Pope, as assistant priest, commenced as soon as the office had terminated. The Venerable Metropolitan, the Most Rev. Dr. Murray, presided.

The ceremonies of the Catholic Church, always solemn, always beautiful, always grand, always pregnant with meaning, were especially so, on the present occasion. The presence of so many clergymen whose venerable hairs surpassed their surplices in whiteness—the presence of so many learned and pious prelates—the dignity, the age, and sainted look of him who presided—the occasion that called them together—the solemn, yet sublime appearance of the church—but, above all, the idea that O'Connell

was there, predisposed the audience to enter fully into the feelings the solemn occasion inspired, to imbibe the eloquent teaching of the mute ceremonies, and read aright the lessons they gave. Never shall we forget the sensations we felt when, about the awful moment of consecration, the whole assembly fell prostrate in adoration, and nothing was heard but the O Salutaris wafted on the rich, deep, full voice of Doctor Laphen. It was, indeed, a scene worthy of Ireland mourning her Liberator,

THE FUNERAL ORATION

Was preached by the Rev. Dr. Miley. The appearance of the reverend gentleman in the pulpit seemed to have increased the interest taken in the proceedings by all who were present. The preacher had journeyed so far with O'Connell alive and dead, he came before the people as the guardian of their dearest treasure. At least they would appear to view him in that light. Often during his brilliant discourse he wept himself and drew tears from his audience. He described O'Connell's victory in death his fame at Rome and all over the world. He gave an eloquent account of the obsequies in Rome, of the journey homewards, of the passage through the Alps, their reception in France, and in England, asked where could O'Connell be rivalled among the great men of the past, vindicated O'Connell's principles in language equally beautiful, forcible, and eloquent, alluded to O'Connell's sincere devotion to his religion, and to the new link by which he has bound Ireland to Rome by sending his heart there, dwelt feelingly on O'Connell's great love for the Irish people, and expressed his conviction that the suffering of the poor in Ireland this year had weighed so heavily upon him as to hasten his death, and concluded by recommending that O'Connell's remains should be interred near his childhood's home.

THE ABSOLUTION.

The solemn absolution which the Pontifical prescribes in offices for a Pope, a Bishop, or a Prince, was given on yesterday over the remains of O'Connell. This interesting ceremony, so seldom celebrated, and which raised O'Connell to the dignity of a Prince in the Catholic Church of his native land was thus performed. The five senior bishops, the Most Rev. Doctors Murray, M'Hale, and Nicholson and the Right Rev. Doctors Keating and Whelan, left the sacristy in black copes, followed the Master of the ceremonies to the Catafalque, and took their positions at the respective corners, the celebrant remaining at the head. Each in turn, then gave the usual absolution prescribed in the Roman Pontifical. And thus ended the most solemn obsequies ever celebrated in Dublin.