

## PEN-PICTURE OF A PRIEST.

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“There is in every parish a man who has no family, but who belongs to every family, a man who is called upon to act in the capacity of witness, counsel, or agent in all the most important acts of civil life ; a man without whom none can enter the world or go out of it ; who takes the child from the bosom of its mother and leaves it only at the tomb ; who blesses or consecrates the crib, the bed of death, and the bier ; a man that little children love and fear and venerate, whom even unknown persons address as “Father,” at the feet of whom, and in whose keeping, all classes of people come to deposit their most secret thoughts, their most hidden sins ; a man who is by profession the consoler and the healer of all the miseries of soul and body, through whom the rich and poor are united ; at whose door they knock by turns, the one to deposit his secret alms, the other to receive it without being made to blush because of his need ; the man who, being himself of no social rank, belongs to all indiscriminately—to the inferior ranks of society by the unostentatious life he leads.”

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NOTES, ETC.

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There are a quarter of a million Masses said every morning in the Catholic churches of the world. What an entrancing spectacle of Unity is represented by this fact in these days of crumbling creeds and multiplied dissensions ! To bring millions of human hearts, with all their disrupting forces, together and to set them all atune to the one devotional note, is the master-work of the Holy Spirit !

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A press despatch from New-York, dated Jan. 4th, says :—There has been laid before the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States and Canada a request to consider the formation of affiliated fraternities of the