

thousands became enthusiastic. To see their beautiful national flag displayed and honored on every side, to hear their soul-thrilling national airs voiced by the blessed bells overhead, was for them proof sufficient that the sympathy of American Catholics is with the nation in her existing struggle against a foreign power. This religious function at St. Patrick's was indeed a memorable event; still it was only a part of the grand Jubilee celebration. Following came a banquet during which well-defined patriotic sentiments were freely expressed by some of the most distinguished church dignitaries in America. "The Red, White and Blue," begun by the Archbishop of Philadelphia, was sung with a whole-souled ardor that showed better than could any oratorical effort, the American Hierarchy's sincere devotedness to their country.

Now, what lesson are we to learn from our reflections on the flourishing condition of Catholicity in New York, as manifested in its countless works, and in the imposing religious and national demonstration we have just briefly described? In the first place we must conclude that the United States is not, by any means, so heretical or irreligious a country as some people would fain lead us to believe. New York is only one corner of the Great Republic; there are other cities such as Chicago, Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, New Orleans, that count their Catholics by hundreds of thousands, and again other cities, far too numerous to mention, that count their Catholics by scores of thousands, or by tens of thousands. And all this American Catholicity—what is its real value? Is it a spurious article consisting in the despicable nothingness of bare de-

monstration?—Does it consist solely in a gorgeous procession once or twice a year, with a horrible infidel-like indifference during the intervening months? Indeed no; on the contrary, it is the sound, genuine God-blest article—a Catholicity that is holy, active self-sacrificing persevering and divine.

In view of this splendid showing made by our holy faith throughout the United States, and after considering the Jubilee celebration lately witnessed in New York, who will say that the Catholic Church is not at home in the American Republic? Who will presume to affirm that, at the present crisis, American patriotism is not compatible with the very best Catholicity? Who will be so obtuse as to make the statement that American Catholics should hold aloof from an active participation in the present deplorable conflict? The Catholics of America have heard the decisive words of their deeply learned and highly cherished Hierarchy, and, such being the case, they require not the pedantic dictation of wheedling outsiders. Of course, they will regard the present war as a calamity. Nevertheless, since it is upon them, let them go to the front like brave men, and, under Heaven's kind protection, let them fight the battles of their beloved country and die for her if necessary. Let them remember that a large percentage of the American navy is composed of as true, as firm, as brave and as thorough Catholics as were ever engaged in battle. Let them keep in mind that the fair land of the Stars and Stripes has proved, is proving, and, please God, will prove, a stauncher friend to their holy religion than have the so-called Catholic countries of Europe. Catholics who frequently disregard the venerable word of