

been besieged by the English. We also behold the chapel of St. Hilarius, the altar of which is erected on the very spot where the holy Doctor died ; and lastly, the church of St.-John, built in the 7th century, containing the immense baptismal basin in which the catechumens were formerly immersed.

Time is advancing and the pilgrim's procession sets out, and after numerous windings reenters the Basilica. Then takes place the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which is given by His Lordship Bishop Bellot. Although it is already late, I can not take my rest without gathering a branch of the laurel-tree planted by St. Radegundes' own hands, and carefully preserved in the Bishop's gardens. A few steps from this blessed tree there is a cross which was placed there by Bishop Pie on the eve of his departure for the Vatican Council. On the foot of the cross is inscribed in Latin :

To the eternal remembrance of the old Abbey of the Holy Cross.

*It was here that stood the altar of the venerable Basilica.*

LOUIS EDOUARD, BISHOP OF POITIERS,

On setting forth, for the Vatican Council erected and blessed this Cross.

October 26<sup>th</sup>, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-nine.

Kneeling respectfully at the foot of this cross I pray for those dear to me, for I am treading a holy soil, the scene of an event, the memory of which will be perpetuated, even to the end of time, in the Church of Jesus Christ. When, on the Good-Friday, during the Mass of the Presanctified, the Body of Our Lord is solemnly borne from the Altar of Repose, where it has been resting since the yester-eve, the choir intones the *Vexilla regis prodeunt*, that majestic hymn in