

Almighty, through the prayers and merits of the blessed and perpetual Virgin Mary, of the blessed Archangel Michael, of the blessed John the Baptist, and of the Apostles Peter and Paul and of all the saints, have mercy upon you, and Jesus Christ forgive all your sins and lead you to eternal life. Amen. Almighty and merciful God grant unto you indulgence, absolution, and remission of all your sins, time of true and fruitful repentance, a heart always penitent and amendment of life, the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit, and final perseverance in good works. Amen. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you. Amen.")

At the last Amen there is a salute from St. Angelo and the bells of St. Peter's. At the word "*benedictio*" the pope rises and makes the sign of the cross three times. After the benediction, the formula of indulgence is read in Latin and Italian, and two copies are thrown down into the Square of St. Peter's.

The illumination of St. Peter's at dusk. This is really a magnificent spectacle. Fourteen hundred lamps on the outer façade and cupola of the church and on the porticos around the square are lighted. In their soft, mild light the form of the noble building stands out in all its grandeur. Like a flaming rose from a magic land, spreading out its glowing petals into the blue sky, so appeared St. Peter's to us from Monte Pincio, where I went with Frau von Kröcher, Heinrich and Herr Passavant to see it. The scene changed in a moment at the stroke of the clock, and the motionless lamps were full of glowing light and rays. The bride has celebrated her nuptials, the pale lily blushes with fire, and the sepulchral façade burns with soul and blood. The building remains thus illuminated till midnight, when the lights gradually die down. Three hundred and sixty-five men are employed in the illumination, and the total number of lights is five thousand nine hundred and ninety-one. After we had seen the transformation from the Monte Pincio, I returned to St. Peter's by the Ripetta, where the press of people and carriages going to Monte Pincio was so great as nearly to crush us.

Arrived at the square of St. Peter's, we found it nearly empty, and we enjoyed at our leisure the splendid spectacle. At close view it had a marvelous beauty, and made a more overwhelming impression than from Monte Pincio. This greatest of all churches, with its two arms stretched out around the Square of St. Peter's, the figures of the apostles and saints high upon the portico and on the top of the colonnades looking down through the magic illumination upon the lookers-on, and softly whispering the events of other years into their ears. And in the middle of the square rises dusky, but full of presentiment, the mighty obelisk, with its suggestion of Egypt's priestly wisdom, which is as the dark night over against the bright radiance of Christianity.