

one hundred and seventy-six bishops and archbishops, fifty-four of the noble guard, all of whom are members of the Italian nobility ; thirty-four cardinals, and last and by all means the greatest of all, our glorious pontiff, who was raised up above the heads of all the others, seated in a golden chair under a beautifully decorated canopy. He was dressed in his Pontifical robes, and, it is needless to say, looked magnificent whenever he raised his hand, with the first three fingers opened, to give his benediction, while the beautiful peacock fans undulated to the flapping to and fro of his huge sleeves as his hand went from right to left bestowing his blessing on all who desired it.

Shortly afterwards the mass was begun with the Pope as celebrant, and was not ended until one o'clock. What a sight it all was—the ceremonies, the Pope on the throne, the beautiful contrast that the red and the purple, of the cardinals and bishops, made with the elegant costumes worn by the fair sex. The music and the singing, the Pope's singing in particular, the moving masses of people, the illuminations and decorations, along with St. Peter's itself, which is a most marvelous sight in its very simplicity, and which needs nothing whatever to set off its beauty and immensity—can only be fully appreciated by those who witnessed it, as it most certainly was far beyond any power of description that the imagination can conceive.

The following Sunday we all attended another very elaborate celebration, the canonization of two Saints—Alessandro Sauli and Gerardo Maiella. The canonization, which followed immediately after the procession, and consequently before the mass, was of absorbing interest throughout, as it was marked by a great many spectacular features in the ritual proper to such an occasion. For instance, during the most solemn part, two bishops, two archbishops, and two cardinals approached the Pope on the throne ; and the bishops kissed his toe, the archbishops his knee, and the cardinals his hand, as an act of submission, and also in signification of the superiority of the cardinals over the archbishops, and of the archbishops over the bishops.

The procession was much more extensive than on Thursday, as the Pope had issued a proclamation commanding all bishops and archbishops within a radius of two hundred miles of Rome to be