

hurl new misfortunes upon Rome, and plunge her into deeper mourning. The *Osservatore* suggested that at the time when this "abominable act" was being consummated the faithful should make a demonstration by ascending the Scala Santa upon their knees; and the Society for Catholic interests has issued a *pio invito*, a pious invitation to all good Catholics to perform acts of reparation by frequenting the Scala Santa and the Via Crucis, and a request to all priests to celebrate a Mass of expiation for so abominable an occurrence, and thus, in a spirit of humiliation and penitence, endeavor to pacify the outraged Majesty of God and to obtain the conversion of these unhappy sectarians who have thus cruelly punctured the Sacred Heart. The inauguration of the temple—the lodge room is called the temple, and the entire apartment *Alloggio*, the lodge—was solemnized yesterday, with all the pomp and circumstance which could be attained. The entrance from the street, the courtyard, and the stairs were carpeted and hung with draperies and garlands of flowers, and I need scarcely say a crowd of spectators assembled outside. By one o'clock, the hour announced, the rooms—and particularly the larger of the reception rooms, which is papered, carpeted, and furnished throughout with the brightest scarlet—were well filled by some two hundred Masons, the majority of those in Rome, representatives from lodges in different parts of Italy, and some from foreign countries. Among these were six English Masons, representing though not officially, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Dalhousie; the Hounslow, of the United Grand Lodge of England; the Apollo, of Oxford; the Bard of Avon Lodge; and Lodge X., of Belfast. The ceremony commenced with a grand procession, so arranged as to pass through the entire suit of rooms in the following order. I must beg your Masonic readers to pardon me if I have wrongly rendered from the Italian any of the designations of the different degrees: Two Master Masons with drawn swords, a Steward, the Apprentices, the Fellow-craftsmen, the Master Masons, another Steward, the Venerables and the Deputations from different lodges, the Brethren of the 4th to the 17th Degree, the Rosicrucians, the Brethren of the 31st Degree, and the Brethren of the 32nd Degree. Then came the Grand Orient, the Deputy Grand Masters, Signors Giorgio Tamajo, Giuseppe Mussi, Francesco Terra Caracciolo, and Giuseppe Petroni; the Grand Chancellor, Mauro Macchi; the Grand Secretary, Luigi Castellazzo; the Grand Orator, Antonio de Witt; and the Grand Steward, Ulisse Bacchi; following whom came the Grand Master, Signor Giuseppe Mazzoni, preceded by two Brethren, one carrying the banner and the other the flaming sword, and followed by two others, one with a lighted lamp, the other bearing a cushion on which were three mallets and the keys of the temple, and by the side of these officers of the Grand Orient walked eleven Brethren carrying lighted quadruple wax torches. Then followed the Representatives of Foreign Lodges, the Brethren of the 33rd Degree, and lastly two Master Masons carrying drawn swords. As the procession advanced, the Brethren fell off two by two, one to each side, forming a double line facing each other—an aisle in fact—by which means the order in which they started was reversed, and the Grand Master, followed by the foreign Masons and those of the 33rd Degree, passed along the alley thus formed direct to the door of the lodge room, which is constructed like an Egyptian Temple. Here the torch-bearers ranged themselves in a semi-circle, and the Grand Master receiving one of the mallets from the Grand Steward, struck three blows upon the door. Having recently made myself acquainted with the ritual observed when the Pope knocks at the Porta Santa and it gives way before him

a practice introduced into the observances of the years of Jubilee by Alexander VI. —I cannot but notice the similarity between the ceremonial observed and that I am endeavoring to describe, and the strange coincidence that while Pius IX. has omitted to open, except in a mystical sense, the door of grace, the head of that long-detested body, the Freemasons, has in the self-same year struck his three blows, opened the door, and, passing through it, inaugurated Freemasonry in Rome. Immediately the blows were struck a murmur was heard inside the lodge, and then the Grand Master, striking three other blows, demanded in a loud voice, "Who has dared to penetrate into the Temple?" "Freemasons," was the reply, "who have built it, and to whose custody it has been committed." Grand Master "Freemasons, I desire you to order the door to be opened to me." From within "For what purpose have you come to this Temple?" Grand Master "We come to complete the work and to consecrate it to the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe, to truth, to virtue, and to light the fire of Freemasonry." Upon this the double door was thrown open from within, disclosing the interior of the Temple, brilliantly illuminated, and the vault of steel, formed by the naked swords of the guardians held aloft with their points touching, extending along the length. At the same time one of the guardians, with his sword in his hand, advanced to the threshold, and said, "Welcome are those who enter into the Temple of the Grand Architect of the Universe, to carry the work on to completion." Passing under the swords, the Grand Master ascended the throne, the Wardens and other officers took their places, the torch-bearers lined each side, and then, first the