FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

LETTER FROM ROME.

A Protestant Lady's Account of Some of the Scenes of Holy Week Ceremonies.

[From an Occasional Correspondent.]

ROME, Thursday, April 14th, 1870.—Day before yesterday I went first to our own church, just outside the Porto del Popolo, but the congregation was not large, as the strangers, many who form a large portion of the American Protestant congregation, are intent upon the ceremonies of the Holy Week, and were either reverence from the fatigues of sight-seeing during the past few days, or saving their strength for what is to come.

After church we called for Mrs. B., who is, as you know, a Roman Catholic, and went over to St. Peter's for the *Miacere*. Some petitions were very good, but as a whole it was disappointing. The church is too large, and the voices are lost in it.

After the service the sacred relics were shown from the balcony above the statue of St. Veronica. Eight candles were burning in front of the place where they are kept. The candles were not of much account for light, but there would have been something lacking in the ceremony if the characteristic feature of the Roman Catholic service—lighted candles—had been omitted. The relics shown were: First, a piece of the True Cross; then the Handkerchief of St. Veronica, and then a Spear. All of these were in silver cases, and sparkled brilliantly. At the sight of them the faithful knelt; and the strangers especially seemed much affected. Some clasped their hands and looked upward; others wiped their eyes; many regarded the pavement intently, not being worthy of the sight they had come so far to see; and others looked on as at things familiar which had lost their reverence. I don't care to see them again, for my part.

When we came out of the church we couldn't find our carriage; probably somebody had taken it and gone off, so we were compelled to look for another. But, though there were carriages and carriages, not one was to be had for love or money. We walked down to the Castle of St. Angelo, and across the statuetted bridge. You remember Bernini's horrid figures, all angels with the instruments of torture, and all angelic, to my mind. Well, at the bridge Mrs. B. saw some of her "dear old Bishops," and they took her in, leaving us lamentin a lunch more of the faithful to plod along the best we could. However, just as we got across the bridge, we met our carriage coming back for us in great haste—Antonio having been turbed to do a little private business on his own account, expecting, as he said, to be back before we could tear ourselves from the wonderful sights.

After a part of a dinner we went around for Mrs. B. again, and she took us to see the Fest Washing. It was certainly a curious sight for an American, and one that gives rise to various emotions according as we look upon it. As you may think—if it—differently—from what we'd say what I thought, we just content myself with trying to say what I saw.

We were first shown into a room, where, on side of a railing, four long tables were laid. The tables were covered with cloths, and on them were pitchers of wine and large bowls for drinking, plates of salad, an orange for each person, a dish of macaroni, a plate of stewed meat and a piece of cheese, with bread. We passed through this room and found ourselves in a perfect jam of women, none of the male sex being allowed in this part of the building. After we passed through the crowd, we went down a flight of stairs into a long room, about a third of which was railed off and devoted to the performance of the ceremony. There was a high bench against the wall, and on a step below were arranged the tubs of water.

Presently a Cardinal, dressed in a red gown, belted at the waist, began to read something which I took to be a psalm. When, in the course of time, the ladies marched in, each with a pilgrim on her arm, there was a rustle, and a buzz, and a turning of heads and a deep silence, save the chanting of the priest and the music of the moving dresses. The ladies looked very smiling, and proud of the distinction accorded them; but the poor, tired pilgrims seemed very much abashed, or perhaps more correctly, ashamed. The pilgrims were seated on the high bench, and their dirty stockings and shoes were taken off, and then, as a signal, the washing commenced—the Cardinal chanting with all his might, and the ladies and pilgrims—responding as well—as the awkwardness of the situation would permit. I ought to have told you that the pilgrims must walk sixty miles, and bring certificates that they have done so, or they cannot have their feet washed. It, who saw the thing better than I did, says that it was a *bona fide* washing; and you would have thought the feet needed a little water, if you had seen them, after walking that distance.

When the washing was over, we made our way to the upper-room and saw the pilgrims eat, while the ladies served. You may depend upon it that they fell to like good fellows who had been hungry for a long time. After they had finished, the Cardinal announced that the ladies were expected to march with these pilgrims to St. Peter's the next afternoon, which was accordingly done.

But we were not yet done, for our friend, Mrs. B., met a friend of hers, the Countess—, who offered to take us to see the lavings prepared for the foot-sore guests. As soon as the pilgrims left the table, they marches in to bed. the ladies chanting and conducting them. We went after them, and saw the rows, where, soft beds, which are made over, the Countess said, every year. A young priest said prayers, and we went away.

I forgot to say that the ladies were all of the nobility, and wore a kind of costume of black dresses and large red aprons, which covered them almost all over. The appointment to this service is deemed to be a high honor, I judge, for I heard one lady say that she was not allowed to wash the feet, she was not considered good enough; and she poured forth regrets that saddened while they amused me.

Yesterday we went out to Frascati. Nothing to see in the morning. We hoped to go up into the super-room, but could not manage it, as we could not find our friend with the permit who had made the appointment with us. So we went back into the church and saw the Pope carry the Sacrament to the Chapel of the Cloche. The procession was very fine. We then rushed for the benediction, and then back to see the Pope wash the apostles' feet. I imagine that everybody knows all about this performance of choosing the apostles from the priests, and then washing their feet and afterwards giving them the supper.—These priests were dressed all in white, with high round white hats. I am told that they eat off of silver salvers, which they are allowed to have as gifts, and each receives twenty or thirty francs besides.

In the afternoon Mrs. C. came for us to go over, again to St. Peter's, saying that there was to be a ceremony which we would regret not seeing more than to overbalance our satisfaction at what we had seen, so off we started again, and heard the *Miacere* once more. Then the altar was all stripped and washed with wine, the bishops and canons marching in procession and touching the altar with a bunch of finely-curled wood—a kind of mop. Then they passed through the church, carrying candles. I tried to buy one of the mops from a little boy, but he said it was promised. When the procession came opposite to where the relics are kept all kneeling, and so did every one in the church, while the relics were again shown. This was the most solemn ceremony I have seen at St. Peter's; for the church was all dark, except a candle here and there, and all the people knelt and appeared to be very much impressed.

I can't say that I like Holy Week in Rome as much as I expected to. There are too many people everywhere, and such rushing, and crowding, and hurrying and fatigue, you never saw or experienced. You must be going all the while, and be, if possible, in several places at once. You are certain to miss something, and that is always the very thing that all your friends have seen and unite in expressing it the most interesting of all. How I envy some people who have been here previous years, and look with lofty indifference at the haste and worry of us strangers. They have seen it all before, and don't care to see it again, but always insist that you ought to see it as they have done. But after all, I believe that the greatest pleasure from seeing these things will be in years to come in remembering them afterwards; but I don't believe I would undergo the fatigue again, for all the satisfaction I have found at Rome, so far, in Holy Week.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Dr. Johnson's labor in compiling a dictionary, considered so wonderful in its day, is undoubtedly surpassed in application, and perhaps in intelligence, by Mr. S. Austin Allibone's "Dictionary of Authors," of which we receive the second or middle volume from the publishers, J. B. Lippincott & Co. The first volume appeared in 1858, published by Mr. George W. Childs, who had not then assumed the *Public Ledger*, and elicited from Lord Macaulay the admiring acknowledgment: "It is far superior to any work of the kind in our language." The present one has this general inscription to an acute and admirable *entrepreneur*: "To my friend Joshua B. Lippincott, whose enterprise enables me to give to the world the completion of this work, I dedicate the second and third volumes of the Dictionary of Authors." The names here included embrace those under letters K and S. We would especially suggest to the publishers that they issue the article on SHAKESPEARE—the most solid account of the plays, works and critics, to be found in any language or country—as a separate book for the use of the Shakespearian student; it occupies forty-eight large close double-columned pages, and is the essence of one thousand and forty printed books. The publishers, in a modest address, remind us of the peculiar excellences of Dr. Allibone's work, in the following terms:

1. It is arranged in alphabetical order, to insure facility of reference.

2. As a general rule, a succinct biography is given of each author of note. The length of such notice, of course, depends upon his prominence as an individual, and his rank as an author. Writers of the first class are treated at considerable length. Less space is devoted to those less distinguished. The number of authors so treated, is not noticed is about 43,000, a far greater number of English and American writers than has ever before been brought together in any work, or indeed in all previous publications.

3. The most valuable feature of the work is now to be mentioned. Compilers of manuals of literature have generally fallen into the great error of giving their opinions almost exclusively upon the merits or demerits of the authors under consideration. Now these opinions may be valuable or not: the public generally neither ask nor care to know what they may be. This capital error is avoided in the present work. The author occasionally ventures an opinion of his own, but this is merely supplemental to opinions better known and more highly appreciated by the reading public. As a carefully prepared record of the opinions of great men upon great men, this work must prove an invaluable guide to the student of literary history. For instance, able criticisms upon the speeches and literary productions of Edmund Burke have been written or spoken by such men as Cazales, Charles James Fox, Sir James Mackintosh, Dr. Adamson, Curran, Wilberforce, the Duke De Levis, Gerard Hamilton, Dr. French, Lawrence, Lord Elton, Dr. Parr, Robert Hall, the Emperor of Germany, the Princess of France, the King of England; in latter times by Lord Brougham, Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Macaulay, and many others. Now such criticisms and recommendations, invaluable as they are, are dotted about in books and pamphlets, often difficult to procure, and troublesome to examine. In the present work, they will be found, in whole or in part, arranged in a few pages under the name of Burke. Such an article alone is well worth the price of the entire volume.

4. The second division of this work consists of a copious index of subjects, so that the inquirer can find at a glance all the authors of note in the language, arranged under the subject or subjects upon which they have written. Under Agriculture the farmer will find authors' names alphabetically arranged; and by turning to each one, can see what he has to say on this work, and probably an estimate of his labors. So in Antiquities, Geography, Divinity, Drama, Law, Political Economy, Biography, etc. This arrangement will render an inestimable value upon the work. The author thus presents to the public, in one volume, a "Comprehensive Manual of English Literature—authors and subjects—a manual which is to the literature of the language what an ordinary dictionary is to the words of the language.

The work contains, as we have already remarked, about 43,000 separate articles, and in typographical bulk is equal to 38 volumes of Prescott's or Macaulay's Historical Works.

The June number of LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE will contain: 1. Thomas Carlyle's Tyndall's Address to the Belfast Scientific Life. 2. Mary S. Walker. 11. Paraguay and Lopez Family. By H. Hargrave. III. Hebrew Nonsense. 4. Poetry. The Virginia Tourist. By Edward A. Pollard.

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PHILADELPHIA, May 4, 1870.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Chief Commissioner of Highways until 12 o'clock M. on Tuesday, the 17th inst., for the building of a Sewer on the line of COATES St. from TWENTY-SECOND to TWENTY-FIRST, from MARKET Street to the center of the bed of said Coates St. to the next street, from FIFTEENTH St. to the west line of Schuylkill Front Street, to be constructed with brick, circular in form, of the clear inside diameter of three feet, with such manholes as may be directed by the Chief Commissioner of Highways. The understanding to be that the Sewer contract will be let on the completion of the sewer before 31st day of July, 1870. And the contractor will be required to give security against the property fronting on said Coates St. being disturbed for a period of fifty cents for each linear foot of front on each side of the street, for such time as the contract shall be limited by ordinance, to be paid to the city; and the Contractor will be required to keep the street and sewer in good order for three years after the sewer is finished. No advance will be made for rock excavation, except by special contract.

When the street is occupied by a City Passenger Railroad track, the sewer shall be constructed along side of said track; so as to interfere as not to obstruct or interfere with the passenger cars; and the contractor will be entitled to receive for such extra work, and for the extra expense of the same, such sum as may be allowed by the Commissioner of Highways, in accordance with the bond subscribed.

Mr. O'Neill—No, sir; not one cent. That firm rendered great and important service to the Government, for which they were paid. But every dollar of subscription obtained through their means went into the coffers of the Government, and not one dollar of it went into their pockets; excepting such amounts as they were entitled to in the way of commissions.

Mr. Van Wyck—As there is only an hour of discussion on this bill I hope the gentleman will occupy it in this same way.

Mr. O'Neill—I have before advocated on this floor the granting of public lands to aid in the construction of leading railroads. I believe that the people of Philadelphia, whom I in part have the honor to represent, and that the people of the State of Pennsylvania, have a right to demand that the railroad system of the country extended, and, wherever it is not well populated, as in the Northwestern States and the far Western Territories, I am willing to grant lands to such corporations in order to aid in the construction of lines to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific by as many different routes as may be needed. Now, I ask gentlemen from the State of Pennsylvania to oppose these grants? Pennsylvania is an old State, thickly populated, with immense wealth in the hands of individuals, and it would come with poor grace from her members to oppose any such legislation. The more so because she has never yet come to Congress and asked for a single cent to help her in any individual enterprise. By the contributions of her own citizens three hundred millions of dollars have been expended in building railroads within her boundaries. By means of this enterprise she has now five thousand miles of iron and steel rails traversing different parts of the State. I am ready to assist in carrying on the railroad system of the country. I do not believe any constituent of mine, or any citizen of Pennsylvania, will find fault with any one of her Representatives for advocating the passage of measures which will throw open the great Territories of our country to emigration and settlement by citizens who will be established in the great West.

I wish I had more time to speak on this question. It is one in which I feel great interest. I have always had a deep concern in railroads and internal improvements. I have been elected to the State which embraced early in the cause of internal improvements. Pennsylvania has been the home of the pioneer of the country. She has been to the whole world a bright example of enterprise, energy and industry in carrying to success great lines of railroads and canals.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

MINISTER JAY is in London, and was yesterday presented to the Queen.

The Germanic Council voted on the catechism schema on Wednesday.

D. GUENDELLE & CO., extensive coffee-dealers of San Francisco, have failed for $500,000.

NEARLY a block of residences, in Leavenworth, Kansas, was burned last night, at a loss of $50,000.

It is announced that 150 men will soon be discharged from the United States armory at Springfield, Mass.

The situation of the Red River difficulty was announced in the British House of Commons yesterday.

SPAIN, it is said, has suspended action on the Porto Rico Constitution, and will consider the proposition for the sale of Cuba.

A FREE passage to Canada is offered by the English Government to all discharged dockyard laborers who wish to emigrate.

J. F. WEDEKIND, a merchant of Ashley, Ohio, committed suicide, on Wednesday, by hanging himself in a barn.

THE latest intelligence from different sections of California contains the reports of short grain crops, owing to the drought.

THE arrest is reported of Morris, military sheriff of Tipperary, charged with receiving bribes from citizens for military arrests.

ISAAC H. JONES, Treasurer of the New Hampshire Central Railroad, has disappeared mysteriously. His accounts are reported to be correct.

THE United States Baggage Masters' and Brakesmen's Mutual Insurance Association, held their annual convention at Chicago, yester day.

THE South Carolina Immigration Convention adjourned yesterday, after taking measures to establish a European Immigrant steamship line, and forming a society for the introduction of Chinese labor.

The track repairers on the Union Pacific Railroad, between Cheyenne and Laramie Stations, were attacked by Indians on Wednesday. One of them was killed, and the others were driven into Antelope Station.

TENNEY's bamboo paper mills, at Hinsdell, N. J., were burned last night, entailing a loss of $100,000. During the fire a man was crushed to death by the falling of the boiler and revolving cylinder in the mills.

A SOUTH PASS, Wyoming, despatch says Major Gordon pursued the Indians in a cavalry capacity in pursuit of Indians, and had a skirmish with them, killing four. Two of Gordon's command were killed. Two of the Indians were killed. The country swarms with Indians.

THE last Legislature of Louisiana repealed the old penal statutes, enacting new ones, but omitted to provide for the punishment of crimes committed prior to the first of April, 1870, and thus left a chance of escape to about one hundred and twenty-five persons indicted for various crimes.

THE U. S. Pharmaceutical Association, in session at Washington, yesterday accepted Professor Herman Thomas as delegate from the Philadelphia Women's College. The Association was occupied yesterday in regulating the standard of quinine, which varies so much since the last decade.

A note to the General Methodist Episcopal Conference South, yesterday, the address of the Bishops was read, counselling moderation in this delicacy and difficulty, and the Church has steadily advanced, but that the number of young men offering for the ministry is inadequate to the demand; recommending the improvement of the literature of the Church, and efforts to improve the moral condition of the colored people. A special committee was appointed to prepare a pastoral letter on the spiritual interests of the Church.

THE Senate Pension Committee, in recommending the passage of the bill pensioning Mrs. Lincoln, reported a bill pensioning with petroleum bids and railroad iron to E. Westergaard, Chief Arthur Burton, Tarpaulin Jacket, with petroleum bids and railroad iron to Gabriel Gerard to Warren's Point, Chief Gunner's Mate Gibbs, Gerard to Warren's Point.

Schr Guy Barton, Lindlam, 4 days from Boston, with ice to master, off Cape May.

Schr J. Bispham, Bispham, 7 days from Boston, via Wilmington, Del., with old iron to A. Whitney & Son, off Cape May, in tow.

Schr C H Waite, Brown, 6 days from Boston, with ice to master, off Cape May.

Schr J. L. Adams, Robinson, 4 days from Boston, with ice to Markham & Cloud.

Schr Independence, Corson, 7 days from Marcus Hook, with grain to Jas L Bewley & Son.

Schr Schuylkill, Capt Marsellis.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

Steamer Frederick Lewis, Clark, Baltimore, W.P. Clyde.

Steamer Prometheus, Grace, Charleston, E A Souder & Co.

Steamer Fairfax, Pierce, Norfolk, Jno G Dale, agt.

Steamer W Whitlidin, Harris, Baltimore, A Groves, Jr.

Steamer Chas Sumner, Jones, Wilmington, Del, W P Clyde.

Schr Ann Eliza, Cranmer, Washington, Dc, Blakiston, Conley, Lennox & Morgan.

HAVRE DE GRACE, May 5.

The following boats left the Susquehanna to tow, down and consigned as follows: Ida May, Lynch, to Pedrick, Seymour & Bixby, with anthracite coal to Wilmington, Del; Tacony, Shaw, for a cargo; Hood, Sumbler to Trump & Son; Albert Lust, do to Taylor & Bettle.

BENICIA.

Steamer Geo Cromwell, Clapp, from New Orleans for New York, in Mare Island Navy Yard.

Ship Ocean Telegraph, Van Sice, at Hawaiian 4th inst, from New York.

Ship Sovereign, Vorcheir, sailed from Honolulu yesterday for Liverpool.

Ship Ocean Express, Hutson, cleared at New York yesterday for Liverpool.

Ship Pioneer, Webster, from Liverpool 20th ult. at New York yesterday.

Steamer Australia, Hedderich, from Glasgow, at New York yesterday.

Ship Ida, Hall, from Calcutta, arrived at New York 4th inst.

Ship Ann Parmelee, cleared at Matanzas 27th ult. for a port north of Hatteras.

Ship Ocean Express, cleared at Sagua 30th ult. ready for New York.

Brig Kate Foster, Pickett, hence at Newburyport 30 inst.

Brig Cora, from Rio Janeiro 30th March, at Fortress Monroe yesterday, for orders.

Brig Ellen Stanwood, Lane, from Santos 7th Feb. at Fortress Monroe yesterday, for orders.

Brig Ann Eliza, Cranmer, from St Johns, PR, at Newport 30 inst.

Brig Ida, Hall, from Calcutta, at Sagua 30th ult. for Boston.

Schr J W Vaughan, Hoover, at Sagua 30th ult. for Philadelphia.

Schr Ann Parmelee, Hopkins, from Boston, at Sagua 30th ult. ready for Boston.

Schr Ocean Express, cleared at Matanzas 27th ultimo for a port north of Hatteras.

Schr Ida, Hall, from Boston, at Sagua 30th ult. ready for New York.

Schr J Ricardo Jova, Little, at Sagua 30th ult. for this port.

Schr S C Oliver, Ingersoll, 10 days from Pensacola, with lumber to master.

Schr Ann Eliza, Cranmer, from Newport, 30 inst. for New York yesterday.

Schr Ocean Express, Sidney, hence for New Haven, at New York yesterday.

Schr Ida, Hall, hence for Barbados, was spoken 2d inst. off Cape Henlopen.

Schr A T Cohen, Lofland, cleared with Pawtucket 30 inst. for Boston.

Schr J W Vaughan, Townsend, sailed from Fall River 30 inst. for this port.

Schr Ann Eliza, Cranmer, cleared at Pawtucket 30 inst. for Boston.

Schr John Bratty, Price, and William A James, Outten, hence at Boston 30 inst.

Schr Windward, Reeves, hence at Baltimore 4th inst.

MARINE MISCELLANY.

Bark A V Sutherland, Sutherland, from New York 24th ult. for Hong Kong, with petroleum, passed Anjer 2d inst.

Steamer Prometheus, Grace, hence at Charleston 4th inst.

Steamer Fairfax, Pierce, hence at Norfolk 4th inst.

Steamer Chas Sumner, Jones, hence at Wilmington, Del, 4th inst.

Schr Ocean Express, Sidney, hence at New Haven 4th inst.

Schr Ann Eliza, Cranmer, hence at Newport 30 inst.

Schr Ida, Hall, hence at Newburyport