

On Tuesday last the church was consecrated, with that solemnity and holiness which becometh the house of God, by the Right Rev. Mr. Brown, assisted by his coadjutor, the Right Rev. Dr. Sharples, Revds. T. Sherburne, P. Orrell, T. Cookson, Robert Gillow, and T. Irving, and attended by Mr. Taylor Bulmer, as cross-bearer. The ceremony commenced, at seven o'clock, and concluded at twelve. After the consecration each bishop celebrated mass. On the following day, the feast of St. George, the patron of England, the interesting ceremonial of the opening took place, and was performed with all the imposing rites and splendour of Catholic worship. The day was most auspicious and favourable. The sun shone with beaming lustre; the sky was scarcely dappled with a single cloud; the odours of flowers breathed from meadows and green fields; the birds woke the woods to life and melody; and

"Earth with her thousand voices praised her God."

Numerous groups from the villages and hamlets of the Fylde were seen wending their way through the lanes and field pathways, to witness the joyful festival of the opening. Kirkham poured forth its Catholic population, and Preston and its neighbourhood sent their numbers: the special train despatched from this town at nine o'clock, conveyed no fewer than two hundred persons. The bells of the church commenced ringing joyous and-sonorous peals at an early hour in the morning, and at ten o'clock the doors were thrown open for the crowds who pressed for admittance. The solemnities of the day began with a procession of the bishops and priests, preceded by cross-bearer, acolythes, and censer-bearer, from the old chapel adjoining Mr. Sherburne's residence.

The surpliced priests came slow in front, — the cross went on before. The procession was closed by the deacon and subdeacon, attired in splendid dalmatics, and the bishops in gorgeous copes and mitres, each attended by his assistant priest. The solemn train passed through the west door, up the nave, and as it entered the church, the strains of the organ burst forth, and every head was bowed to receive the officiating bishop's benediction. Having taken their seats in and around the chancel, the right rev. celebrant, Dr. Brown, intoned the "Deus in adjutorium meum intende," and the services commenced with the office of tierce, which was sung by the priests and prelates. The following bishops and clergymen were present:— Right Rev. Drs. Brown, Briggs, Sharples, and Murdoch; Revds: T. Billington, V.G., H. Gradwell, V.G., P. Orrell, S. Phillips, H. Brewer, R. Brown, J. B. Marsh, J. Billington, R. Roskell, D.D., J. Hall, G. Connell, E.F. Browne, R. Gillow, W. Henderson, J. Maddock, R. Frith, H. Greenalgh, L. Toole, R. Turpin, T. Irving, T. Crowe, J. Walmesley, R. Havers, W. Knight, C. Walker, J. Pemberton, M. Hickey, R. Glassbrook, E. Carter, J. Carr, V. Dowding, T. Abraham, and - Richmond. The Revs. F. Cookson and W. Carter were deacon and sub-deacon; the presbyter assistens Rev. T. Sherburne; master of the ceremonies, Rev. R. Gillow. The processional cross was borne by Rev. T. Adamson. After tierce was chanted pontifical high mass was celebrated. The choir of St. Augustine's church, in this town, rendered their able services — the selections of music being Mozart's Kyrie No. 1; Haydyn's Gloria No. 4; Do. Credo, No. 3; Do. Sanctus No. 2; Do. Agnus Dei, No. 1. Mr. Woolman most skillfully presided at the organ.

The instrument is placed in a loft under the tower arch. It has two rows of keys, - the great organ extending from GG to F in alt, - the swell from F to F in alt, and contains the following stops:-

#### GREAT ORGAN

1. Open Diapason, (through.)
2. Stop Diapason, (Claribella.)
3. Dulciana.
4. Principal.
5. Twelfth.
6. Fifteenth.
7. Sesquialtera (three ranks.)
8. Trumpet.

#### SWELL

1. Open Diapason.
2. Stop Diapason
3. Principal.
4. Hautboy.
5. Coupler Swell.
6. Pedal Pipes
7. Pedal Key.

The organ has all the modern improvements for steadying the wind; with an octave and a half of German pedals, and four composition pedals, commanding the various combinations of stops, — the whole forming a very effective instrument, built by Mr. Bishop, of London.

Mass being proceeded with, and, after the gospel had been sung by the Deacon, the Right Rev. Dr. Murdoch ascended the pulpit, and preached an exceedingly eloquent sermon. The discourse opened with a description of the dedication of the temple of Solomon, one of the grandest ceremonies ever witnessed in Jerusalem. Seven years were spent in the erection of this magnificent structure, and no one could read the description of it in holy writ without feelings of admiration. It was dedicated, with the greatest joy and solemnity; thousands of victims were immolated; the Almighty sent down fire to consume the holocaust, and filled the sanctuary with his glory. Equally pleasing to God must be the dedication of every Christian temple; and, how much more sacred and august must be the temples of the Catholic church, for they were sanctified by all the realities of which the Mosaic rites were only the types and figures. They were sanctified, not merely by the rod of Aaron, and the manna, but by the “Priest, for ever, according to the order of Melchisedec,” and the corporeal presence of God in the holy sacrament. No wonder, then, that they loved the glory of God’s house, - no wonder that the present solemnity was a source of exultation and holy joy. The Right Rev. Bishop next dwelt with much eloquence and force upon the belief of Catholics in the Holy Eucharist, controverting the charges of idolatry and absurdity adduced against them; and after a powerful defence of that doctrine, described, with glowing effect, the processions at Rome, on the festival of Corpus Christi in honour of that sacrament. It was not granted to the Catholics of this land to take part in such splendid processions; but when they contemplated their numbers, and viewed this magnificent temple, and transported themselves back to the time when they were almost without altar and sanctuary, and they could not celebrate their religious rites without fine or loss of life, they had great cause to be grateful to the God of Heaven, who, “when he is angry, still remembereth mercy,” for the auspicious change which he had brought about in their favour. He concluded by joyfully congratulating them on the happy event of the day, and fervently invoking the blessing of God on the charity and munificence of those who had erected the church, and the prayers of its patron saint for all who were assembled in it.

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| 4. Principal.                   | 4. Hautboy.       |
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