

From the South-Western Sentinel.

CATHOLIC CEREMONY.

We had the pleasure of witnessing the solemn ceremony of laying the coner-stone of the Catholic church to be erected in this town. The rain, which fell in torrents on Tuesday morning, for which the ceremony was first announced, having caused, it to be postponed to the following day (August 5,) the zealous Catholics had more time to prepare suitable accommodations for the attending congregation, which was on that day numerous, and composed of persons of every creed, several clergymen of different denominations being present.

The morning of Wednesday being as fine as could be wished, the procession began to move from the

rooms occupied as a temporary place, of worship by the Catholics of this place where Americans, Germans, Irish, and French, belonging to that church, unite every Sunday in perfect concord in their relations towards each other, as well as in the unity of faith on which they pride themselves. The procession was headed by the censor-bearer, next to whom came the cross-bearer, with the sign of redemption raised in the air, followed by the Very Reverend T. Badin, in Surplice and stole; next by the Reverend Messrs. R. Weinzepflen and A. Deydier acting as Deacon and Subdeacon, with their tunics and dalmatics; and lastly the Right Rev. Janson, Bishop of Nancy and Toul, in France, in his official costume, with the mitre on his head, and the pastoral staff or crosier in his left hand.

On the way to the corner of the intended building, the clergy chanted the Litany in Latin; to which the members of the congregation who could sing responded *ORA PRO NOBIS*, that is, *Pray for us*.

After the blessing of the water by the Bishop, and appropriate prayers and psalms, the Bishop, attended by his officers, went down into the excavation, and saw the stone rightly fixed with mortar, he himself laying some of it at the four corners,—the rest of the operation being finished by the architect.

In a cavity dug out in the first stone there was deposited a tin box, containing a Catholic Almanack for 1840, the names of all the clergy attending on the occasion, those of the principal officers in the General Government and the State of Indiana, with those of the officers of the town, and of some of the principal citizens of Evansville. The hour for commencing the ceremony having already gone by, no time could be spared to put in the names of all the subscribers to the building of the church, as gratitude would have suggested.

After the completion of that ceremony, the Bishop went round all the foundations, to bless them; which being done, the Rev. T. Badin cleared away much of the mist of prejudice, which often causes people of other denominations to view Catholics and their religion in an unfavorable light. The gentleman, notwithstanding his advanced age, spoke for a long time to an attentive and respectful congregation, which drew from him many complimentary expressions on their good feelings,—that were truly evinced by the proceeds of the collection made on the spot, amounting to \$143, which is no bad specimen of the liberality of the citizens, in this pressure for money. We understand that Bishop Jansen has added the same sum to the collection.

Pontifical high Mass was then sung. The choir gained much credit for itself, especially for Mr. Gaertner, who has been indefatigable in his exertions to form it, and under whom the members have made astonishing progress for the short time he has been teaching.

After the singing of the Gospel, a short address was delivered by the Rev. A. Deydier, the Catholic priest of the place; and in conclusion, after the pontifical Benediction, the sacrament of confirmation was administered to two ladies.

The procession then returned, in the order in which it came, to the place whence it started, followed by the whole Catholic congregation, a great number of them singing the hymn *Te Deum* in German.

Nothing could exceed the order and decorum of all the spectators during the performance of this long ceremony, which lasted till nearly half-past one.