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A SOLEMN FUNCTION IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, MALTA.

R. Ellis.

The Thanksgiving Service for the King's Accession.

There can be no visitor to Malta who is unacquainted with the solemn grandeur, the stately beauty, and the ornate adornment of the principal Roman Catholic church in the island, the magnificent pile which bears the name of St. John's Church, Valetta. Our picture conveys a very good idea of the magnificence of the interior, with its wealth of sacred paintings and priceless tapestry, though it necessarily fails to show one great feature—the stone slabs which constitute the floor and which mark the resting-places of so many gallant Knights Hospitallers. It was in this church that, by the authority of the Bishop of Malta, a solemn Te Deum was sung on March 7 to give thanks for the accession to the throne of King Edward VII., and to invoke the Divine blessing upon him. The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Malta Regiment and the Royal Malta Artillery lined the church and the approaches to it; enormous crowds filled the church and the streets; and the service was attended by the Governor and his staff, the representatives of the Navy and Army, the Judges, the Members of Council, the foreign Consuls, and, in fact, all that goes to make up Society in Malta.