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PONTIFICAL SWISS
GUARD.

PICTURESQUE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY.

Picture.:- An interesting ceremony at the--

--Vatican. The Pontifical Swiss Guard parades for the traditional swearing-in of recruits. All--

--the men are Swiss born, and--

--a thousand pilgrim--

--compatriots witness the unique--

--sight. The Regiment's standard dates--

--from 1500,--

--and it's over this piece of ancient history that the recruits--

--take the solemn oath of--

--fidelity to the Pope. Every officer is a member of Switzerland's nobility.

The ceremony originated--

--in the days of mercenary armies, and--

--when danger threatened the Vatican State, Swiss--

--soldiers fought for its--

--protection, and as much--

--money as they--

--could rustle up while--

--doing it. The pay wasn't high, but what with sacking,--
plundering--

--and a few village maidens, thrown in,--

--the job had its attractions. The chief recompense--

--in these days is the high honour of serving in its ranks.