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In Memoriam.

The great Pontiff, whose life spanned a century, like a rainbow of peace, whose cradle stood in the first decade of the 19th century, and whose tomb is now ready in the first decade of the 20th, expired peacefully in the Lord on Monday, July the 20th.

The great light in the firmament of this world, lumen in caelo, has been extinguished in order to diffuse its brilliancy in the realms of the Blessed. How nobly this lion faced the inevitable ending. All the virtues of his refined and saintly character displayed themselves in this last of all his victories, the triumph of his mind and soul over the slowly dying flesh.

"Precious in the sight of God is the death of His saints." The death of Pope Leo XIII. was precious also in the sight of an awestricken world. It is rarely given to an indifferent and scoffing world to witness such a death bed. Never before in the history of mankind have so many persons contemplated day by day the last moments of a saint. Pope Leo had gained the love and admiration of the universe by his gentle character, his heroic virtues and his superhuman wisdom. He has now given his last lesson by teaching men how to die. The spectacle of his christian death bed may, with the grace of God, do more for the conversion of men than even his holy life and his inspired encyclicals. His love for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel sweetened his last sufferings. His illness began on the opening day of the novena, and his saintly death followed within the octave of the feast. The members of the confraternity of the scapular, upon whose prayers he relied, will not forget these remarkable facts, and the Blessed

Mother, whom he especially worshipped under the invocation of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, will surely have received his pure soul into her heavenly court.

With calmness and tranquil confidence in Christ's promises, we await the action of the Holy Spirit in the selection of Leo's successor. According to the well known prophecy of Malachy, the new Pope is symbolized by "Ignis ardens," a blazing fire. Each Pope has his particular mission, besides being the head of the Church. Pius IX., as "Crux de Cruce," suffered for the Church, and consoled the struggling soldiers of the cross. Leo XIII., "lumen in caelo," enlightened the world and "let his light shine before men," until nations, as well as individuals, glorified God, who is wonderful in His saints. Now the coming "Ignis ardens" may be destined to set this world on fire with love of God and His Christ, the only Savior of human society. Christ, in speaking of His own mission, said: "I am come to bring fire upon this earth and what do I desire, but that it be kindled."

LEO XIII

With mind ennobled by the love of right,
In a discordant, irreligious age,
Amidst fierce foes aroused by impious rage,
Serene and tranquil as the stars of night,
Upholding peace, rebuking lawless might,
He stood his ground; philosopher and sage,
He flashed the torch of Truth upon life's stage,
And palsied Error by its radiant light.
His ardent spirit touched the topmost sky;
High-souled, he grandly scorned the base and
low,
And sought the durable, the good, the pure,
The perfect work inspired from on high.
With Time's unceasing march his fame will grow,
Because he nobly wrought what shall endure.

Alfred Alexis.