

WILL REIGN UNTIL 1898

Remarkable Prophecy of a Monk Regarding Leo XIII.

WILL IT ALL COME TRUE?

The remarkable activity displayed by Leo XIII, in formulating new policies and inaugurating movements for extending the sphere of the Church's influence, has been the wonder of his friends. He has taken up measures and started policies which only a man who hoped for a long life ought to undertake. When his friends protested and pointed out that his health had never been sound, that he was endangering practical interests in taking up others which the future could look after, that he must not expect to live far beyond seventy, he has scouted their warnings and worked away at the most venturesome enterprises as if he had the secret of an earthly immortality. But all Rome knows the reason. Leo XIII. relies on a prophecy that he will reign until 1898, and thereby hangs an interesting story.

PROPHCY OF PADRE PHILIPPO.

When Pius IX. was approaching his last days there was the usual speculation as to his probable successor. The present Pope was then Cardinal Pecci and was little thought of as the successor of Pius IX. He was of a delicate fragile appearance known as a student and not in favor with the Romans. At that time there lived in Rome an old and saintly priest known as Padre Phillippo. His superior said to him one day, between jest and earnest, "Padre Phillippo, who will be our next Pope?" Padre Phillippo answered with promptness and simplicity, although he was the humblest and least pretentious of men. "Cardinal Pecci will be the next Pope and he will reign twenty years." "I know nothing but that he will be Pope and will reign twenty years," was the only remark that could be got from the priest in reply to raillery and inquiry on the part of his companions. When it became known that Padre Phillippo had prophesied in Cardinal Pecci's favor, the Diplomatic Corps began to study his chances closely.

FIRST PART OF THE PREDICTION.

When in 1878 Pius IX. died, Cardinal Pecci entered upon the duties of Papal Chamberlain in the interregnum between the Pope's death and the assembling of the conclave, and ably discharged the duties. At last the conclave assembled. Day by day the people watched the smoke issue from the Vatican chimney, telling the story of burning ballots and the failure to elect a Pope. At last on Feb. 20, the smoke failed to issue from the pipe, and shortly after from the loggia of St. Peter's a banner with the legend "Pecci" announced the election and the successful candidate. The first part of the prophecy had proved true.

LEO XIII.'S CONFIDENCE IN IT.

Of course Leo XIII. had been the first to hear of Padre Phillippo's prophecy, and as soon as he had the time sent for the old priest that he might hear with his own ears a prophecy of which half had been fulfilled. The saintly priest repeated his prophecy with a child's simplicity.

"How do you know that I shall reign twenty years?" said the Pope.

"I know nothing but that you will reign twenty years and accomplish much for the world," said the old man. He never said more on the subject and lived only a few years longer, held in the highest honor by the Pope.

Now for the second part of the prophecy. Leo XIII. made up his mind to accept the prediction of a twenty years' reign. He set his whole policy

to that key. It was presented to him that a few matters of importance well handled would be of value to the Church, while many things just begun in the face of death would be useless. His one reply to each objection was. "I shall live a few years more, long enough to start this matter well."

GREAT MOVEMENTS UNDERTAKEN.

In this mood he took up all the great movements. At every crisis his opponents were encouraged to hold on in the hope of his speedy death. He was nerved to refuse all compromise by the thought that he had yet some years to live. When negotiating to bring Bismarck to Canossa, as the saying is, the Chancellor made a few breaks on the expectation of his speedy departure.

When he adopted the cause of the democracy, and declared his intention to support France, forbidding the French bishops to say a word against the Republic, the monarchists smiled at the thought that he would not live long enough to make his support effective. He lived long enough to prevent the heir of the Count of Paris from parading as an official claimant to the French throne and to let that young man know that he was not wanted at the Papal court.

THE POPE SURE HE WILL LIVE.

Instances without number might be cited to prove the confidence which the Pope has had in the prophecy. One must suffice here. It is well known that he is bent on giving the hat to Delegate Satelli before he dies. It would not do to leave the delegate to the favor of the next administration. At any moment he could raise Mgr. Satelli to the Sacred College by a special brief, and his friends have urged it on the plea of advanced age and debility. "Don't trouble yourselves," has been the steady reply of His Holiness. "I will live some years yet."

It remains to be seen whether that prediction will be fully verified. Yet how much history has been made by the clear sightedness of the old priest, for there is no doubt that Leo XIII. has begun and carried out schemes of administration and reform which he might never have attempted but for the prediction.

The Late Hon. T. D. McGee.

In connection with a recent reference to some of Mr. McGee's speeches and lectures, I think I mentioned some months ago that it was purposed to bring out a new edition of his public utterances. As there have been enquiries on the subject, it may be well to repeat what I know of the matter. Of the friends and admirers of McGee there is not one who has cherished his memory with greater devotion than Mr. Justice MacMahon, of Toronto. Every scrap of the great orator's speeches and addresses that he has preserved or that he falls in with is regarded by Judge MacMahon with a veneration due to what genius and patriotism have hallowed. Some time ago by himself and a few other Irish Canadian gentlemen of kindred sympathies a committee was formed for the purpose of publishing a selection from the speeches and lectures. The only volume of McGee's speeches before the public is the now rare collection brought out in 1865 at Mr. McGee's own request by Mr. H. J. Morgan, of Ottawa, and entitled "Speeches and Addresses Chiefly on the Subject of British American Union." I believe that Mr. Morgan has been asked to edit this new volume also. I know that for some years he has been collecting Mr. McGee's addresses and has amassed a large quantity of material not elsewhere found together. The appearance of such a work will be awaited with very real interest.—*John Reade in the Montreal Gazette.*

FIFTY YEARS.

The Grey Nuns Celebrate the Jubilee of their Arrival in Ottawa.

A SKETCH OF THE FOUNDATION.

Fifty years ago a little band of intrepid women who feared little and were prepared to brave much, arrived in Ottawa, then known as Bytown. They were four sisters of the Grey Nuns from the Mother House in Montreal. Their mission was to form a convent and to carry on the educational work for which that order had made itself noted. The convent was established shortly after their arrival and last week the Sisters of that community commenced to celebrate the jubilee of this interesting event. The celebration was commenced at four o'clock Tuesday afternoon by an entertainment in St. Joseph's Orphans' Home. At nine o'clock Wednesday morning Mass was celebrated at the Bonaventure and in the afternoon an entertainment was held in the Rideau street convent followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Basilica. A reception was held in Rideau street convent on Thursday afternoon for all former pupils of that institution.

Sister Theresa, Superioress of the Rideau street convent, has written an article on the founding of the Grey Nuns in Ottawa, which will be interesting at this particular time. It reads in part:

On the 13th of February, 1845, the little band of intrepid missionaries left Montreal, and at midnight reached the L'Assommoir, where they were most hospitably received by the Hon. Louis J. Papineau and his wife. Madame Papineau was extremely kind and attentive, and made them comfortable for the night.

Immediately after breakfast the following morning they resumed their journey, and on reaching Homier's, a famous hostelry of that period, about three miles from Bytown, they were surprised to see an immense concourse of people, and vehicles of every style to the number of nearly one hundred. The entire town seemed represented and the throng included the leading residents, amongst whom figured an Anglican minister and many prominent Protestants, who had fraternally joined their Catholic fellow-citizens in welcoming the advent of the Sisters.

"At five o'clock in the afternoon they reached the city and were at once driven to the parish church, where a solemn Te Deum was recited and heartfelt thanks given to the Almighty for the happy issue of their journey.

"The blessing of the new convent (the present Rideau street convent) took place on the 10th of March, 1845, at the close of Vespers. The ceremony was attended by an immense throng of people from all parts of the town, who marched in procession from the parish church. An address was delivered by Rev. Father Telmon, and after the benediction the procession returned to the church, where a final Te Deum was chanted.

"On the 3d of March, 1845, the first school was opened, and thus were laid the foundations of an educational establishment, whose subsequent marvellous expansion, both in the Dominion and in the United States, has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its humble founders."

The names of the pioneer Sisters were Sister Elizabeth Bruriers, Superior; Sister Elenore Thibodeau, Assistant; Sister Antoinette Howard, mistress of novices, and Sister Cecile Ursule Charlebois.

After all the joy of success does not equal that which attends the patient worker.—*Augusta Evans.*

Cardinal Gibbons and the Papal Succession.

(From the New York Freeman's Journal.)

BALTIMORE, April 30, 1895.—It has been stated in this correspondence, on what is considered unimpeachable authority, that Cardinal Gibbons is not only most decidedly averse to having his name associated relative to the succession in the Papacy, but that the agitation of the subject that includes the slightest reference to him in that direction is exceedingly repugnant to his desires. Those who know the man do not wonder at his attitude on this matter. He is, above all else, a man of modesty and humility and if there is another and supreme honor in store for him, it is not that he aspires to it or would countenance any movement in his behalf. Indeed, it may be safely assumed that he feels quite sensibly the weight of his present responsibilities, and imperative duty alone would cause him to yield acceptance of greater burdens.

The reason why I revert to this subject again is because my attention has been called to a notice of an article on "The Papal Succession" in the Revue de Paris for the current month, written by Mgr. Boeglin, a distinguished French ecclesiastic, and who, as editor of the *Moniteur de Rome*, was expelled from Rome by Signor Crispi. In this article the Monsignor remarks that had Cardinal Lavignerie lived he would undoubtedly have become the successor of Leo XIII., but now that he is gone Cardinal Gibbons, in the view of the Monsignor, has an extremely good chance to be chosen, especially if the future conclave is held anywhere than in Rome. In Italy, as is well known, local traditions and attachments are very strong, and a Cardinal foreign to that nationality has but small chance to be elected Pope. Yet very soon the Sacred College will have a representative of every enlightened nationality in the world within its circle, and when this occurs, according to Mgr. Boeglin, neither nationality nor intrigues will have weight, and every properly qualified representative of the Sacred College will be considered upon his merits.

Of course, all this is the merest conjecture and speculation, coming even from so eminent a thinker, observer and writer as Mgr. Boeglin. The present venerable Pontiff is one of the very greatest in every attribute that ever occupied the chair of St. Peter. He is, indeed, one of the most sublime figures of the century, an especial creation, it may be said, by Divine Providence to adequately meet every circumstance and emergency that follows the wonderful progress of the Church and concerns the welfare and the peace of the nations. The policy of Leo XIII., which has been so pre-eminent in wisdom and so magnificent in results, will not cease to exist with his death. It will live in all its vigor to accomplish other great beneficent designs and to assert its power for the good of all Christendom. In my humble view the successor of the present great Pontiff will be chosen as one who is the most thorough representative of his policy and his virtues, who has proved himself the worthiest of the worthy, and who would sustain the dignity and the firmness intellectually of the position in the highest degree.

But God alone knows the future, and however wisely and dispassionately we may discuss any question, results may convince us that we are but feeble creatures of exceedingly limited vision, and that, while we may propose, it is for God alone to dispose. Therefore, whatever our wishes, our hopes and our anxieties relative to the succession of the great and glorious Leo, all our utterances must be after all, only pure speculation and an assumption of penetrative intelligence which we do not possess.

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