

# PICTURES OF THE POPE.

Biograph and Mutoscope Photographs Which Show How the Pontifical Blessing Is Bestowed.



I.



II.

[Copyright, 1898, by the American Mutoscope Company.]

The accompanying remarkable pictures were taken with the pope's consent, for the American Biograph, by W. Kennedy-Laurie Dickson. Although it is eight years since his holiness has had a picture taken, he posed for a series of 17,000 photographs which were captured by this new American invention. The first series represents the bestowal of the pontifical blessing. The faithful of the Roman Catholic church have always wished to see the gesture of the apostolic benediction that the sovereign pontiff bestows like rays of grace and happiness. They have never seen it distinctly in the immense pilgrimages, in the crowded consistories and at the masses said for the repose of the souls of pontificates. All the sincere of all creeds have wished to observe the manner of one who is the shepherd of a flock of 300,000,000 souls. The photographs that are making these inaccessible things familiar to all the world were taken for the mutoscope and the biograph at the rate of 1,800 a minute.



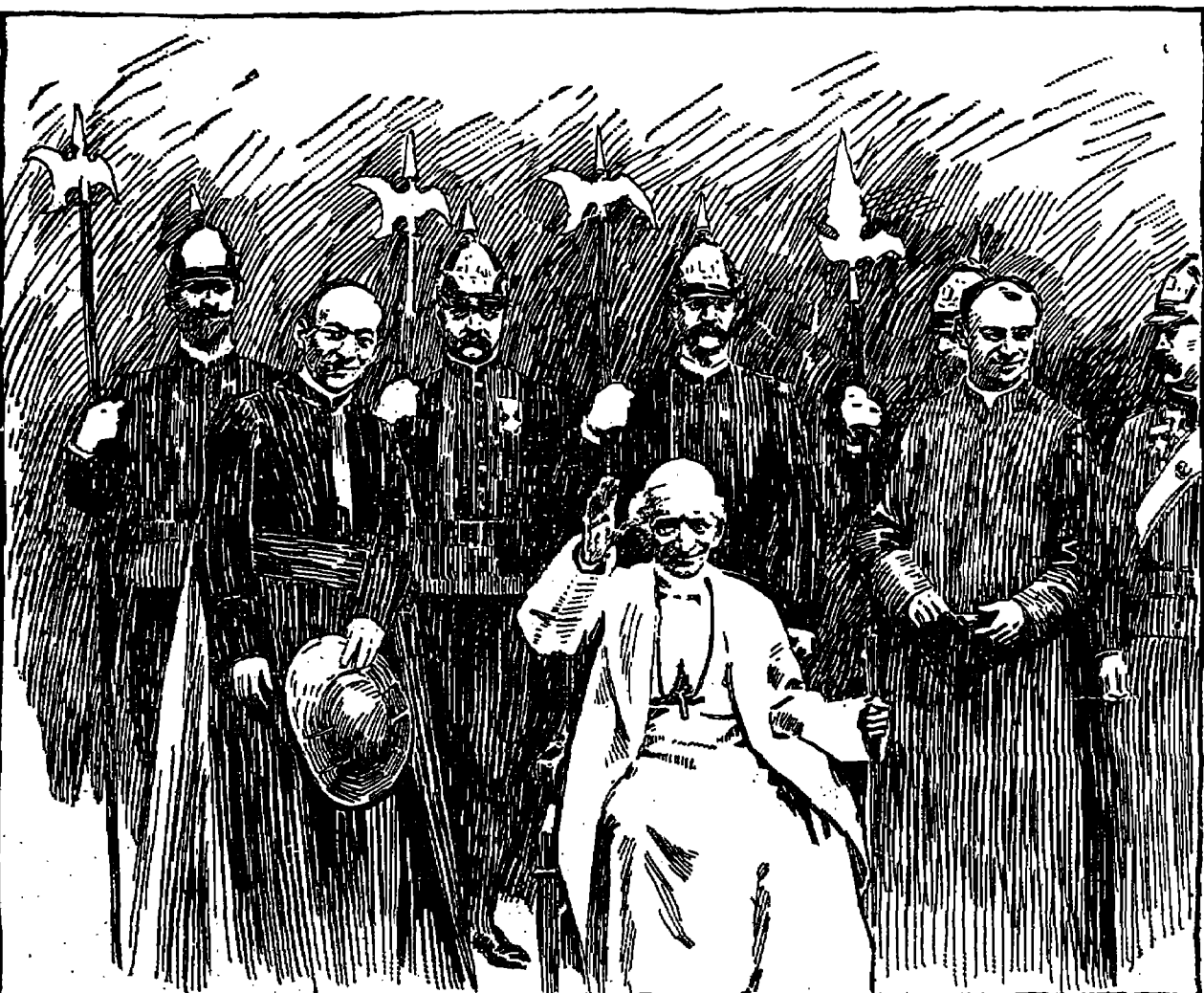
III.



IV.

[Copyright, 1898, by the American Mutoscope Company.]

The gesture of the benediction is in the sign of the cross, made with two fingers of the right hand. The pope repeated it several times on this occasion. He blessed the camera, he blessed the photographer, he blessed the 17,000 negatives that were made of him; he blessed through the mutoscope and the biograph the spectators of the benediction. This was his special wish, and he expressed it officially. At St. Mary's seminary of St. Sulpice in Baltimore the students had to restrain themselves from kneeling at the benediction reproduced by the biograph. Mr. Martinelli, the papal delegate at Washington, was impressed by the vividness of it profoundly. The method of taking these pictures was interesting. Mr. Dickson spent four months in Rome before he had made much more progress than to learn in a general way where the Vatican was. He carried on his negotiations through the chief officer of the papal court, Count Soderini, but his mission would have failed had it not been for the friendly aid of Count Pecci, the pope's nephew, and an officer of the pope's household.

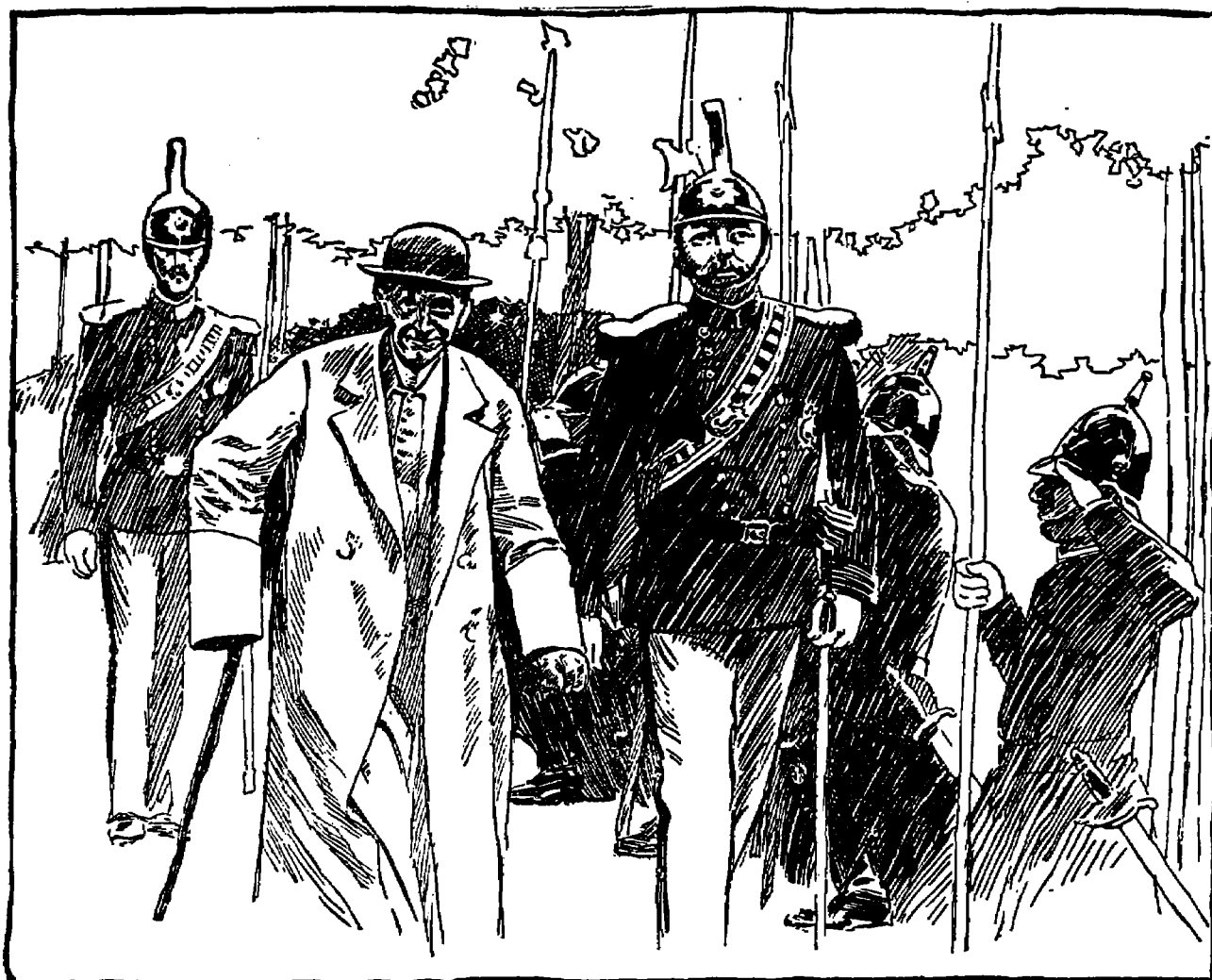


V.

[Copyright, 1898, by the American Mutoscope Company.]

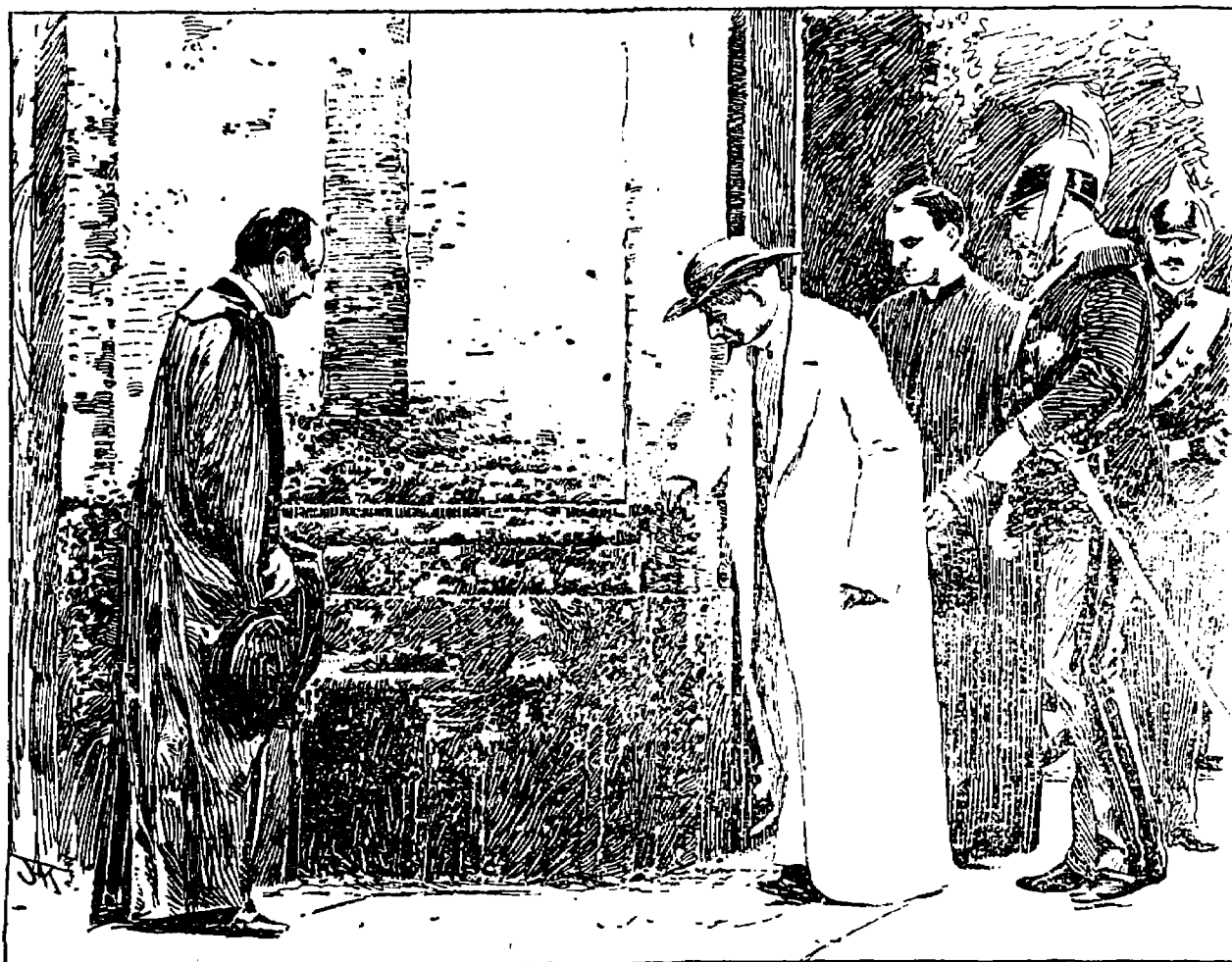
## FINAL GESTURE OF THE POPE IN BESTOWING THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

The Rev. Thomas H. Malone recently lectured on the pope's interest to all humanity as the representative of an order that has reigned since the time when Isis and Osiris were worshiped in Egypt, having weathered all the storms of ages. He described these pictures one by one and gave to the benediction a special preparatory remark, deeply reverential. He invited the spectators to participate in the happiness, in the glory and in the advantage of the benediction. "Thousands of his American children," he said, "who could never hope to make a pilgrimage to him will feel grateful to the gentle father who has made it possible for them to feel almost as if they had looked upon him in life, and to know the thrill that comes from the consciousness of standing in that august, venerable presence."



[Copyright, 1898, by the American Mutoscope Company.]

This picture represents his holiness, accompanied by his guards, taking his customary walk in the Vatican gardens. It is in these beautiful grounds that surround the Vatican that Leo XIII takes his daily exercise, making it a point each day to enjoy the open air as long as his lessening strength will allow.



[Copyright, 1898, by the American Mutoscope Company.]

On one occasion when Mr. Dickson was in the Vatican gardens taking pictures of the guards the holy father appeared. Instantly all knelt. His holiness, seeing the instrument and its manipulator, asked if the gentleman were not the same one he had seen there before. "The same, your holiness," replied Count Pecci. Straightway the pope called Mr. Dickson to him and put himself at his disposal voluntarily. The photographer had just received from London some prints of the series he had taken in April. He showed these to the pope, and they pleased his holiness immensely.

## The Exhibition at Montreal.

For some time past great interest has been manifested in the wonderful moving pictures, by the American Biograph, of His Holiness the Pope. Up to the present the Catholics of Montreal and surrounding districts have only had an opportunity of estimating their merit by occasional illustrations which have appeared in the "True Witness." Arrangements have now been made, however, by which these pictures will be shown in Montreal. The exhibition which will open at Windsor Hall on Saturday next, is certain to attract a great deal of attention. The readers of the "True Witness" will have the additional incentive, were it necessary to visit it, owing to the fact that the genial and able manager, Mr. Brennan, who has been instrumental in the introduction of this wonderful invention to Canada, has generously decided to give a percentage of the receipts towards the building fund of the Catholic High School.

We reproduce several of the pictures above which were taken by Mr. W. Kennedy-Laurie Dickson. In a recent explanation of his several interviews with his Holiness, Mr. Dickson said:

"I was granted five separate sittings," Mr. Dickson says. "Two scenes were taken in the upper Loggia of the Vatican. A carefully planned picture of His Holiness driving through the gardens of the Vatican, (April 20), was the next achievement. Several weeks later I was admitted to the Vatican gardens, on which occasion His Holiness recognized the biograph, and asked if it were not the same apparatus and I the same gentleman he had seen in the Loggia early in the summer. On receiving an affirmative reply, he laughed and said, 'Oh, then we must do something for him!' That evening the camera was placed opposite the door of

the garden villa, and the Holy Father kindly lent himself to the requirements of the biograph. A valuable series of views was obtained, in connection with which Leo XIII. showed a kindly and intelligent interest. He asked me how long I would remain in Rome. I replied that that depended on His Holiness, 'I am altogether at your disposal,' he answered, 'and am charmed to assist you by every means in my power.' When I arose to go he detained me, entering with extreme cordiality into my description of the manner in which the mutoscopes would be placed and their important use in bringing His Holiness before that largenumber of people who were debarred from a pilgrimage to Rome, and the reception of the Pontifical blessing.

"When, a little later, I submitted to Leo XIII. the mutoscope containing the living reproduction of himself, he betrayed the most gleeful interest, exclaiming frequently, 'Oh, see me blessing!' Then to Monsignor della Volpa, 'Why, how splendid you look!'"

"At the close of the interview I said, 'Holy Father, will you not complete the sum of my indebtedness by giving me one more sitting in the garden by the Summer Villa?' He laughed and shook his head. 'Have you not enough?' 'No,' I answered, 'but give me to-morrow morning, and I will promise to be content.' His Holiness was silent a minute, and then said: 'Well, then, I agree, but not for to-morrow morning. To-morrow afternoon at six o'clock.'

"Next day, punctually at the hour agreed, the superb carriage was seen winding its way along the avenue. The guards fell into position, and Monsignor della Volpa and Count Pecci—the one glorious in robes of scarlet and purple, the other stately

in blue and gold—advanced to meet His Holiness. Roar, roar, went the machine, all fell on their knees, and the Pontiff walked to the stone bench beside the gate. After a brief interval, during which he conversed easily with his immediate attendants. His Holiness rose to complete the programme agreed upon, and began to cross the intervening space to the throne; but here an unavoidable contretemps occurred. My assistant had been so hurried that he had not time to replace another film, so I was forced to beg His Holiness to return to the bench while this was being done—a request with which he cheerfully complied. I then threaded the machine in breathless haste, pivoting it in the direction of the throne, after which I invited His Holiness to pass into the picture, which he did, scattering smiles and benedictions, and interchanging remarks with his nephew and the maggiordomo, and finally taking his seat right royally upon the crimson throne. Before leaving, the Pontiff gave me a special blessing, and laughingly demanded if I were at last satisfied."

The best things which one does are what he does himself without guidance from another. Encouragement, sympathy, and assistance one craves as a thirsty man craves for water; but the force and guidance which lead to one's success must be one's own. The men who make the greatest successes are not those who have had the most guidance, but those who either by environment or instruction have had the best development. But no man should fail to appreciate the true worth of sympathy, encouragement, and assistance of the right kind. These are, however, really a part of his armament. Unfortunate is the man who has them not.—P. T. Austen.