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HIS HOLINESS LEO XIII. DANGEROUSLY ILL.

Of all the sad news that may afflict the Catholic Church, none could cast such a gloom of pain over us as the announcement that the Pope is now lying dangerously ill.

To all admirers of virtue and merit, we well understand the commotion which such news may produce, but those only who have the privilege of being members of the great Catholic family can realize the extent of the sorrow which now fills our hearts. To others His Holiness Leo XIII. may appear as the head of a great, nay, the most powerful of all Christian Societies, as well as a most learned writer and consummate statesman; but to us he is much more than all that. In him we reverence the successor of Peter, the Vicar of Christ on earth, the infallible teaching authority which watches over the sacred deposit of divine revelation and Christian morality. He is the Master and Supreme Pontiff of the Church; he is our loving Father and devoted guide through the wilderness of this earth in our journey to heaven.

No sooner had the sad intelligence reached the Apostolic Delegate at Ottawa than telegrams were sent to the Archbishops of the whole Dominion conveying to them the afflicting news, and asking all to pray for the preservation of a life so precious to the Catholic Church. Most earnest shall the supplications be which from the hearts of all the faithful shall ascend to the throne of God's mercy, not to leave us orphans, though glorious must the crown of glory be which is in store in heaven for the venerable Pontiff.

We quote in extenso from the Free Press the various telegrams of the Associated Press, as well as the many looked-for details and comments which His Holiness Leo XIII.'s illness has brought forth to the world.

Brussels, July 5.—The Catholic organ, *Le Vingtime Siecle*, has received the following telegram from Rome:—

"The death agony of Pope Leo has commenced. His demise may be expected at any moment. The last sacraments have been administered."

Rome, July 4, 9.45 p.m.—The condition of the Pope showed some improvement during the day, but His Holiness became worse this evening, making it necessary for Dr. Lapponi to remain again at the Vatican throughout the night in order to watch his patient, who, according to the latest diagnosis, seems to have an affection of the right lung, which extends in some degree to the other organs of the thorax.

Rome, July 5.—A bulletin issued by the physicians at noon states that while the general condition of the Pope is grave for the moment, it is not alarming.

Rome, July 6, 2.55 a.m.—The Pope has had three hours' sleep, but woke with severe pains in the chest. Dr. Lapponi gave him relief by changing his position.

Rome, July 6, 3 a.m.—"God's will be done. Who would have believed it when only ten days ago I was presiding over a public consistory?" murmured feebly Pope Leo, as he felt himself late last evening sinking into a sleep which lasted about three hours, until excruciating pain brought the dying Pontiff back to consciousness.

He groaned and complained of pains on both sides of the thorax. Tenderly Doctor Lapponi, assisted by Pope Leo's valet and the physician's assistant, lifted the frail form, and, changing the position, succeeded in giving the patient some relief. Though hovering on the brink of death the life of the Pontiff is still prolonged by means of strong stimulants and concentrated nourishment, and while he is still alive, his wonderful vitality

may again resist and conquer the attack of this illness.

Late last evening, after the excitement of the ceremony of the last sacraments were over, the Pope seemed less restless, partly soothed by the religious services and partly by a dose of chloral, which was given to him in considerable quantity. The Pontiff is lying on a small bed drawn up to a window overlooking the piazza of St. Peters. The chamber is very large and draped with green curtains. The only picture in the room is an antique madonna and the sole ornament a great ivory crucifix.

Signs That the End is Near.

The interior of the Vatican during the early hours of this morning testifies to the conviction that the passing of Pope Leo is very near. The court yard of St. Damazo is filled with the carriages of the cardinals. Cardinal Satolli drove in great haste to Rome from Frazcati last evening. In the cortile are drawn up the carriages of the cardinals and of many notables. Servants and messengers hurry across the court with bundles of huge wax tapers and with the robes of the ecclesiastical dignitaries, who are waiting within the palace.

Caught Cold at a Drive.

Rome, July 4.—It appears that the condition of the Pope became suddenly worse after yesterday's drive in the Vatican gardens, when, notwithstanding the fact that the temperature was 93 degrees, he caught cold, and it settled in his chest and head, producing bronchial catarrh, accompanied by a slight cough, thirst, lassitude and watery eyes. Fortunately no fever has developed and there has been no acceleration of the pulse, which is rather weak.

The efforts of Dr. Lapponi were directed to combat the catarrh and to prevent its further spread, and especially its development into bronchitis or inflammation of the lungs. Feeling his responsibility, Dr. Lapponi would like to have a consultation with the best physicians in Rome, but the Pope absolutely refused to agree to this. He said he had entire confidence in Dr. Lapponi, and added that the only other physician he would allow to be called was Dr. Mazzoni, who operated on the Pontiff in 1899. When Dr. Lapponi remarked that Dr. Mazzoni was a surgeon, and that therefore his professional services were not needed, the Pope replied:

"It does not matter, it is not for his profession that I want him, but because I like him." It has therefore been decided that Dr. Mazzoni shall visit the Pope to-morrow morning.

Suffered from Insomnia.

For some nights past the Pope has suffered somewhat from insomnia, so Friday night Dr. Lapponi decided to spend the night in a room adjoining the Pontiff's bedroom for the purpose of determining the character and cause of His Holiness' sleeplessness. He found the Pope slept fairly well during the early part of the night, and also from 8 to 11 o'clock Saturday morning. Dr. Lapponi came to the conclusion that his patient's restlessness was due to what, considering his advanced age, may be called overwork. Dr. Lapponi insisted on the necessity of the Pope saving himself all kinds of fatigue, especially during the summer, and the doctor asked Monseigneur Bisleti, the papal master of the chambers, to limit the audiences to those absolutely indispensable.

The Last Sacrament—Beautiful Ceremony Enacted at the Dying Pontiff's Bedside.

Rome, July 5.—The Associated Press correspondent saw Dr. Mazzoni this afternoon on his return from a consultation at Pope Leo's bedside. The doctor said the situation is certainly really grave, in view of the great age of the patient and his state of extreme weakness. However, it is not yet desperate, especially with a man having such

unexpected reserves of energy and vitality, which at the age of 93 is indeed astonishing.

The doctor said: "The exact definition of the Pope's illness is senile adynamic pneumonia, but His Holiness has not the least idea that he is attacked by any organic disease. In fact he was not in bed when I went to the Vatican, but was seated in his usual arm chair, where I am accustomed to see him every time I visit the palace. He believes that the oppression on his chest and the accompanying difficulty of breathing are merely the results of extreme weakness. As soon as he saw me, His Holiness repeatedly requested me to turn my attention to the best means of restoring his strength, which, he said, was all he required, except a little fresh air. Now and then the Pope had recourse to his inveterate habit of sniff taking, saying that he finds it very refreshing."

"The weakness of the patient's pulse and his short and irregular breathing gradually approaching gasping are the only external symptoms of any serious nature, but, as I said before, the Pope this morning was full of spirits and would not take a grave view of his own case. When I left His Holiness said: 'Come again soon, and I will try to give you a better reception.'"

Began Rapidly to Fall.

During the afternoon the strength of the Pontiff began to fail him so rapidly and his condition became so critical that it appeared that only a few more hours of life remained to him. It was therefore deemed wise to advise him of his grave condition, and this was done with tender precaution. Pope Leo was thus prepared for his last communion, which was administered to-night with the participation of all the cardinals now in Rome and the whole of the pontifical court.

The solemn yet gorgeous ceremony of administering the last sacrament took place at the bedside of Pope Leo. The central figure was the dying pontiff, whose long life's journey is nearly over, calmly preparing to enter the dark valley. His pale and emaciated face almost as white as the pillows on which it rested, showed little sign of life except the keen glittering eyes, always the most striking feature. Around the bed were grouped the Noble Guards in their glittering uniforms, the Knights of the Cloak and Sword, in their picturesque mediaeval costumes of black; twenty-five cardinals, all the members of the Sacred College, who are present in Rome, stately and venerable figures on their sweeping crimson robes, the whole forming a scene of rich yet subdued coloring, a fit subject for the brush of Rembrandt. The whole of what is called the pontifical family, headed by Cardinal Rampolla, and including all the private chamberlains, was there. Nearest to the bed stood the imposing figure of the Cardinal Grand Penitentiary Serafino Vanutelli, with the Pope's confessor to hear

The Last Confession

of the departing Pontiff. Then the priest apostolic approached bearing the viaticum to give the last communion, and administer the extreme unction, assisted by the Grand Penitentiary. Pope Leo feebly recited the confession of faith, as formulated by the Council of Trent, and finally the words of absolution and the formula of indulgence "in articulo mortis" were solemnly pronounced by the Grand Penitentiary. The heads of the great religious orders who were present granted the Pope the special indulgence which they have the privilege of conferring. Then came the touching prayers for a passing soul, and part of the gospel, the Lord's Passion. As the last words died away, all fell on their knees, the Pontiff raising his almost transparent finger with a feeble effort,

pronounced in scarcely audible words his benediction on the Sacred College and all present, and then sank back on the pillows. There was scarcely a tearful eye in the whole assemblage, and the sobs of the Pope's relatives were plainly heard. Deep silence followed, only broken now and again by a murmured prayer or pious ejaculation.

In the portion of the Loggia of Raphael, adjoining the papal apartments, were the families of Count Ricardo Pecci and Count Moroni, the Pope's nephews. The condition of His Holiness at 11 p.m., though still grave was not so serious as late in the afternoon. Dr. Lapponi administered camphor-caffeine through the mouth, as an injection did not prove successful, the Pope saying he could not bear it. The amelioration resulting from the camphor-caffeine was so marked that the Pontiff called first his nephews and then his private secretary, and adjusted some personal affairs.

May Live for Days.

Dr. Mazzoni and Dr. Lapponi now think that the danger of a catastrophe occurring during the night has been averted. Indeed they hope that unless there is heart failure, they will be able to keep their patient alive for a few days longer, especially if he will willingly consent to observe the physician's orders. This, however, is the more difficult, as His Holiness preserves his full consciousness and argues and discusses his doctor's prescriptions.

London Press Eulogy.

London, July 5.—The consensus of opinion of the correspondents of the London papers is that the aged Pontiff can live but a few hours. The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent says an eye-witness, returning from the Vatican at midnight, described as a most moving scene the grandeur of the Pope's participation in the last sacrament, and the wonderful composure with which the Pontiff received from the doctors the intimation of the gravity of his illness. The informant said: "Although the Pope himself feels worse than ever in his life, he is optimistic and has not entirely given up hope. Noticing the earnestness displayed by the doctors, His Holiness himself ordered the last sacraments, wishing to play his part of sovereign of the Church to the last and receive the final consolation while in full possession of his faculties. Before participating in the rite the Pontiff bade farewell to the pontifical court, the central figure in a setting which unfolded the whole gorgeous pomp of the vatican."

All the morning papers this morning unstintingly eulogize the departing Pope, whose bedside, irrespective of creeds, is a centre of melancholy interest to the whole Christian world.

CLOSING EXERCISES OF ST. NORBERT ACADEMY.

On Tuesday, June 23rd, the annual musicale of St. Norbert Academy was held, and its success attested the high standard of the musical education of the academy. The following program was carried out:—

First Division, Class A—Miss Mary Astley, "Home, Sweet Home" (Volkslied). Miss Rose di Marco, "Summer Days Schottische." Miss Jeanne di Marco, song, "Lucy" (Weber); "La Cachucha" (Weber); song, "Enfants Chanty" (Weber).

Class B—Miss Josephine Lepine, "When the Swallows" (Abbott). Miss Blanche Marcoux, song, "Take Thy Flight" (Weber). Miss Alice Turenne, "The Fairy Wedding Waltz" (Vanderbeek). Misses A. Garaud, A. Dufort, duet, "Reprimandes a la Pompee" (Mozart). Miss M. M. Montchamp, "Argonaut Waltzes" (L. Marks). Miss Clara Campeau, "Dancing Waves Schottische" (Beethoven). Misses Campeau, Garaud, Dufort, trio, "Jarrive" (Beethoven). Miss J. St. Germain, "Kellog Waltz" (Ardite). Miss Juliette Campeau, "Martha" (Flotou). Misses B. Marcoux, M. Dufort, duet, "Think of Me" (Beethoven).

Class A—Miss R. A. Galarneau, "Evening Zephyrs" (Paul Keller). Miss M. Dufort, "Lily of the Valley" (Sydney Smith). Misses M. L. Garaud, M. Dufort, duet, "L'enfant du Village" (O. Batisfort). Miss Leonie Leullier, "Love and Friendship" (J. Rodrigo). Misses Dufort, duet, "Hail Oh Spring!" (H. Gauthier). Miss Sophie Arial, "Shepherd's Evening Song" (C. D. Blake). Misses B. Marcoux, A. Dufort, duet, "Au Berceau" (H. Gauthier).

Second Division—Miss M. L. Galarneau, "Edelweiss Waltz" (Vanderbeek). Miss M. L. Garaud, "Huntsman's Horn" (C. D. Blake). Miss B. Marcoux, solo, "Paquerette" (Beethoven). Miss Hubertha Chagnon, "Con Amore" (P. Beaumont). Misses B. Marcoux, A. Dufort, duet, "La Petite Fleur" (Beethoven). Miss Alice Laporte, "La Fontaine" (C. Bohm). Miss Blanche Marcoux, solo, "Sunday Bells" (Mendelssohn).

Third Division—Miss Regina Garaud, "Austrian Army March" (R. Eilenberg). Miss Therese Turenne, "Angels' Voices" (A. Sweet). Miss G. Champagne, "The First Violet" (F. Behr).

Fourth Division—Miss Bella McDougall, "Poet and Musician" (McTouff, F. Von Suppi). Miss M. J. Ritchot, "The Palms" (Theo. Northrop). Miss Alma Champagne, "Oberon" (Ed. Dorn).

Fifth Division—Miss Emma Cloutier, "Martha" (Sydney Smith). Miss A. M. Jean, "Sonata," Op. 10 (J. L. Dussek).

On Friday evening, June 26th, at 7.30 the closing exercises and distribution of prizes took place. The spacious hall was filled with parents and friends of the pupils attending the academy.

The proceedings opened with a piano duet, "Zampa," by Misses A. M. Jean E. Cloutier, followed by the raising of a new flag by the boys of the day school, accompanied by the singing of "Hail Victorious Banner," composed for the occasion. A flower drill by twenty little girls was a pleasing feature of the evening. This was followed by a piano duet, "La Gracieuse," (Bohn) by the Misses A. Laporte, H. Chagnon, after which the distribution of prizes to one hundred and fifty pupils took place.

Medals were awarded as follows: Silver medal donated by Dr. A. Gendreau awarded to Miss M. Beauchemin for excellence (class).

Gold medal donated by His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface. First prize for Scriptural Knowledge awarded to Miss Emma Cloutier. Second prize (crown) donated by Rev. B. Garaud, of Washington, awarded to Miss A. Lamoureux.

Silver medal for music, donated by Mr. E. Champagne, awarded to Miss A. M. Jean.

Gold medal for good conduct given by Rev. Mother Royal of the Grey Nuns' convent, St. Boniface, awarded to Miss M. A. Laurendeau.

Silver medal for domestic economy, donated by Mr. O'Pirson, awarded to Miss Therese Turenne.

After the awards to the various classes, a duet entitled "Vacations" was sung by Misses B. McDougall and E. Lacerte, followed by a chorus, and the reading of the following valedictory by Miss E. Cloutier:—

Scarcely ten months have passed since the doors of this institution opened to welcome our joyful arrival. How joyful, none but we who are earnestly searching for that wisdom and knowledge which nourishes body and soul, know.

"Before us lay the vast field for cultivation, with the perspective of ardent labor added to separation of family ties. But what of that when hopes of rich harvests, glory, satisfaction of duty accomplished, and labor nobly rewarded, lay also before us! Under such auspices duty and labor became pleasure and joy to us. Have we not proof of it, when we realize how rapidly days and weeks have passed? Ah! so rapidly, that we can scarcely believe we are already reaping that golden harvest; yes, golden harvest and fertile, because of the innumerable sacrifices on the part of our dear Alma Mater in favor of education in Manitoba. The grateful reminiscences of this evening will serve as beacons to guide us o'er