

GREAT POPE, WISE LEADER

F. Marion Crawford's Sketch of Leo XIII.

In his new book, "Ave Roma Immortalis," F. Marion Crawford has written an interesting and comprehensive sketch of Leo XIII. It forms a companion volume to his earlier work on the Vatican and the Holy Father which appeared in "The Republic." In his present work the novelist writes: "Leo XIII. was born in the Voiscian hills, in 1810. His father had served in the Napoleonic wars, but had already retired to his native village, where he was at the time a landowner and proprietor of considerable importance and the father of several children. Leo XIII. was born in the Voiscian hills, in a rock district and in the midst of a country well known to Italian as the Ciociaria. This word is derived from "cioca," which means a worn by the peasants in that part of the country in the place of shoes, and bound by leathern thongs to the feet and leg over linen strips which served for stockings. The sandals, indeed, is common enough, or was common not long ago in the Sabine and Samnium hills, and in some parts of the Abruzzi, but it is especially the property of the Voiscians all the way from Montefiore, the worst den of thieves in Italy, down to the Neapolitan frontier. Joachim Pecci was born with a plentiful supply of this kind of bony, untiring mountaineer's energy which has made the Voiscians what they have been, good or evil since the beginning of history.

Those who have been to Carpineto have seen the dark old pile in which the Pope was born, with its tower which tops the town, as the dwellings of the small nobles always did in every hemlet and village throughout the south of Europe. For the Pecci were good, gentle folks long ago, and the portraits of Pope Leo's father and mother, in their dress of the last century, still hang in their places in the mansion. His Holiness strongly resembles both, for he has his father's brow and eyes and his mother's mouth and chin.

IN HIS YOUTH he seemed to have a very dark man, as clearly appears from the portrait of him painted when he was in Brussels at about the age of 31 years. The family type is strong. The extraordinary clear, pale complexion is also a family characteristic. Leo XIII.'s face seems cut of live alabaster, and it is not a figure of speech to say that it appears to emit a light of its own.

Born and bred in the keen air of the Voiscian hills, he is a southern Italian, but of the mountains, and there is still something about him of the hill people. He has the long, lean, straight, broad-shouldered frame, the true mountaineer, the marvellously bright eye, the eagle's traceable well-knit growth of the mane, the character of the old age; and in his well-balanced constitution of a steady caution with an unerring, unhesitating decision.

In the matter of physique there is, indeed, a resemblance between Leo XIII., President Lincoln and Mr. Gladstone—long, sinewy men, all three of a bony constitution and indomitable vitality, with large skulls, high cheek bones and energetic jaws—all three men of great physical strength; of profound capacity for study; of melancholy disposition and of unusual eloquence.

Born during the height of the conflict between belief and unbelief, Leo XIII. by a significant fatality, was the Pontiff who was to witness the Kulturkampf was raging and the attention of the world was riveted on the deadly struggle between the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH and HISMARCH—a struggle in which the great chancellor found his equal in his master.

The Pope spent his childhood in the simple surroundings of a simple, as every one knows who has ever visited an Italian country gentleman in his home. Early hours, constant exercises, plain food and farm interests made a strong man of him, with plenty of simple, commonsense. As a boy he was a great walker and climber, and it is said that he was exceedingly fond of birding, the only form of sport afforded there in those times as it is now, not only with guns, but by means of nets.

The stiff mannerism of the patriarchal system which survived until recently from the early Roman times gave him that formal tone and authoritative manner which is so characteristic of his conversation and so characteristic of his deliberations but unhesitating speech makes one think of Goethe's "without haste, without rest." Yet his formality is not of the slow and circumlocutory sort; on the contrary, it is energized and precise and helps rather than mars the sound casting of each idea.

The Pope's voice is as distinctly individual as his manner of speaking. It is not deep nor very full, but, considering his great age, it is wonderfully clear and ringing, and it has a certain incisivness of sound which gives it great carrying power. Plus IX. had as beautiful a voice, both in compass and richness of quality, as any baritone singer in the Sistine choir. No one who ever heard him intone the "Te Deum," in St. Peter's, in the old days, can forget the grand intonation. He was gifted in many ways, with great physical character with a most witty humor; and in character he was one of the most gentle and kind-hearted men of his day, as he was also one of the least inquisitive, so to say, while endowed with

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It is commonly said that the Pope has not changed his manner of life since he was a simple Bishop. He is indeed a man who could not easily change his habits or his opinions. He is a great habitué for a long time, nor shall we presently see his match again.

There he stands at the head of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, as wise a leader as any who in his day has wielded power, as skilled in his own manner as any who held the pen, and better than all that, as straightly simple and honest a Christian man as ever fought a great battle for his faith's sake.

IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS GREAT AGE the Holy Father enjoys excellent health and leads a life full of occupations from morning until night. He rises very early. Of late he frequently says Mass in a chapel in his private apartments. After Mass he breakfasts upon coffee and goat's milk, and this milk is supplied from goats kept in the Vatican gardens, a reminiscence of Carpineto and of the mountaineer's early life. During the mornings the Pope receives Cardinals, Bishops, ambassadors, who are going away on leave, or who have just returned, the princes and members of the Roman nobility and distinguished foreigners. In the afternoon, he receives a cup of broth. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, or a little earlier, he dines, and he is most abstemious, though he has excellent digestions. When the weather is fine he generally walks or drives in the gardens. Papal gendarmes are lodged in the gardens, and it is their duty to patrol the precincts by day and by night. The fact that two dynamites were caught in the garden in 1894 proves that a private police is necessary.

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K. S. J. Toronto, Dec. 11/99. At the last regular meeting of Columbus Commandery No. 219, R. C. N. K. S. J., the following resolution was adopted: Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom to call to His eternal reward the beloved wife of our esteemed brother, John O'Rourke, and whereas by her death our brother has lost a faithful and affectionate wife, and his children a devoted and loving mother, therefore be it resolved that we, the members of Columbus Commandery, in meeting assembled, do hereby extend to Bro. O'Rourke our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in this hour of affliction; and be it further, Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Commandery and sent to the Catholic Record and Knight of St. John for publication. Alex. H. Boney, Secretary.

C. M. B. A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Branch 231, Simcoe. Spiritual Advisors: Rev. D. Forster, Chan. E. Schellberg, Pres. J. F. Power, B. A. First Vice-Pres. R. B. Brock, Second Vice-Pres. A. H. Malone, Rec. Sec. J. C. O'Neill, Asst. Sec. W. Schellberg, Fin. Sec. W. E. Kelly, Treas. M. Smith, Mar. J. Mills, Guard. Jas. Kelly, Trustees J. J. McCowell, M. Smith, E. Schellberg, W. E. Kelly, A. H. Maboe.

ARCHDIOCESE OF OTTAWA.

Special to THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

The beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated in the city of Ottawa, on the 8th inst. The beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated in the city of Ottawa, on the 8th inst. The beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated in the city of Ottawa, on the 8th inst.

When speaking at length on any occasion he is eloquent, but with the elegance of the dictator and sometimes of the logician rather than that of the persuader. His enunciation is excellent, but moves fast in general one who thinks long and acts promptly—a hard hitter as we should familiarly say. As a statesman Leo XIII. is admitted to be of the highest order; as a scholar he is indisputably one of the finest Latinists of our time; as a man he possesses the simplicity of character which almost always accompanies greatness, together with a healthy sobriety of temper, habit and individual taste rarely found in those beings whom we call "motors" among men.

It is commonly said that the Pope has not changed his manner of life since he was a simple Bishop. He is indeed a man who could not easily change his habits or his opinions. He is a great habitué for a long time, nor shall we presently see his match again.

There he stands at the head of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, as wise a leader as any who in his day has wielded power, as skilled in his own manner as any who held the pen, and better than all that, as straightly simple and honest a Christian man as ever fought a great battle for his faith's sake.

IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS GREAT AGE the Holy Father enjoys excellent health and leads a life full of occupations from morning until night. He rises very early. Of late he frequently says Mass in a chapel in his private apartments. After Mass he breakfasts upon coffee and goat's milk, and this milk is supplied from goats kept in the Vatican gardens, a reminiscence of Carpineto and of the mountaineer's early life. During the mornings the Pope receives Cardinals, Bishops, ambassadors, who are going away on leave, or who have just returned, the princes and members of the Roman nobility and distinguished foreigners. In the afternoon, he receives a cup of broth. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, or a little earlier, he dines, and he is most abstemious, though he has excellent digestions. When the weather is fine he generally walks or drives in the gardens. Papal gendarmes are lodged in the gardens, and it is their duty to patrol the precincts by day and by night. The fact that two dynamites were caught in the garden in 1894 proves that a private police is necessary.

From the cupola of St. Peter's the whole extent of the Vatican grounds is visible, and when the Pope is walking the visitors over four hundred feet above stop to watch him. He has keen eyes and sees them all. "Let us show ourselves," he exclaims on such occasions. "At least they will not be able to say that the Pope is ill."

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