

lunge to Pius IX., a post involving presidency of the Apostolic Chamber, and the chief charge of the temporalities of the Holy See. From the summer to the next February this duty lasted. Then came another trust. At the death of the Pope it was the Camerlengo's office to render the last services, to close the eyes, to prove the death according to the old solemn formula, to preside at the magnificent obsequies. On the evening of the 7th of February, 1877, Pius IX., whose reign had been emblematic of the title conferred upon him by the old prophecy, Crux de Cruce died; on the 20th of the same month Cardinal Pecci was elected by the vote of his colleagues to be the successor, and took the name of Leo XIII.

It must indeed have been a solemn scene when, robed in his immaculate white cassock, mozzetta of crimson velvet, the Fisherman's ring on his finger, and on his head the white skull cap of the Popes, the new Pontiff, after receiving the homage of the Cardinals, approached before the expectant multitude to raise his hand for the first time in Pontifical Benediction. The whole basilica was one whole mass of heads, the people being packed so closely as to be unable to kneel! The Pope knelt down against the balcony and hid his face in his hands. When he rose to his feet and, in a voice powerful and sonorous, though somewhat tremulous with feeling intoned the blessing, the solemn hush that followed was broken by a cry that rang through that great space—"Viva Papa Leone."

The ceremonies attending the coronation of a Pope have been handed down from the earliest times and are many of them most impressive, not the least is that by which the Pontiff is gently reminded that humility is to be his crowning virtue even in the highest position of the Church; that the pomp is due to his office and should not blind him to his own unworthiness. An eye-witness of the last coronation thus describes this detail of the ceremony:

"When the Pope was borne out into the full light of the Sala Regia, clad in full pontificals, he appeared above the heads of all in the rays of the Roman morning sun, backed by the flabelli, a gorgeous picture framed by the door of the Sistine. The nave was kept absolutely clear for the wide and long cortege; when it had arrived at a point half-way between the door of the chapel and the cancello it stopped and a clerk bearing a pole surmounted by three iron prongs lighted a taper the piece of tow on one of them and kneeling in front of the Pontiff as the flame blazed up and as suddenly expired, chanted in a plaintive minor, 'Pater Sancte, sic transit gloria mundi.' The animated face of Leo XIII. assumed a grave expression, he slightly bent his head and leaned back in his throne with the look of one to whom the solemn truth was by no means strange. When the last Amen from all present rolled through the chapel, the sound of a mortar was heard without, and at this signal the bells of St. Peter's and of all the churches announced to the city that a new Pope was crowned."

The career of Mgr. Pecci as Pope Leo XIII. is too well known to need comment here. One of the first acts was to restore the Hierarchy of Scotland and to give to England a new Cardinal in the person of John Henry Newman. "Lumen in Coela" he had been called and Lumen in Coela he had proved himself. "In the successor of Pope Pius," said the great English Cardinal, "I recognize a depth of thought, a tenderness of heart, a winning simplicity, a power answering to his name." Veritably this was a lion of the fold of Judah!

By his skilled diplomacy Germany from being a hostile has become a friendly power; the condition of the

church in that country has been greatly ameliorated, and even the inexorable Bismarck has been obliged to abrogate his Blue Laws and "come to Canossa." In the dispute between Germany and Spain concerning the Canary Isles Pope Leo was by mutual consent chosen arbiter, and his wise decision placated both powers and saved Europe from the disaster of war. Time and time again has his voice been raised and always in the interest of peace. Franco, ever dear to his heart, has been the subject of several Encyclicals: America has profited by his utterances on the much-voiced Labor Question.

Leo XIII., in the words of a great English writer, ascended St. Peter's throne as much the bearer of a spiritual power as St. Peter himself; and yet in the midst of a generation in which might is right, the authority of a landless Pope is recognized by the master of more legions than Augustus, and Governments throughout the world which cannot rule their own citizens are fain to look for aid to one whom they have repudiated for centuries."

This is the man whose jubilee the world celebrates at the opening of '98. Emperors and kings have their policies and statecraft; the policy of the Pope relates to things of a higher realm than these—it is to preach peace on earth and good-will to men. "Vicegerent of Christ on earth"—it is indeed a daring title in this age of warring social forces, of skepticism, of denial and of despair, but it is a title that has come down to us through centuries and that will last, we believe, when time, that "minute between two miracles," as Renan call it is over. It shines like a beacon star in the firmament, declaring to all earnestness seekers after Truth that Christ is not dead, but lives forever in the Church that He founded.

Great in intellect, noble in soul, pure in life. Leo XIII. stands forth to day as the embodiment of all that is highest and best on earth, true representative of Him who once walked in Galilee. The "Viva Papa Leone" of the pilgrims may be echoed throughout the Christian world, for this white-robed Man of the Vatican has grown old in the service of God and of humanity.

"Then you are going to marry him simply for his money. I hope he'll never find it out and despise you for it." "Oh, dear, no. I have told him just how it is. He says he knows his money is much more worth loving than himself, and he is grateful to me for taking him with it."

The leaders of the German Catholics in the days of the Kulturkampf are disappearing one by one. Dr. Peter Franz Reichenperger, who was, with his brother, one of a group of orators that stood by Mallinckrodt and Windthorst in the front of the long fight with Bismarck, died in Berlin on New Year's Day. He was born in Coblenz in 1810, was for many years a member of both the Imperial Reichstag and the Prussian Parliament and besides his fame as a debater, won a high reputation in Germany as a writer on economics and jurisprudence.

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