

signs of superior ability, ordered him to make a "novena," or nine days' supplication for the recovery of his health, and for Divine guidance in choosing his future vocation. He did so: his health was restored, and with his recovery came the resolution of taking Holy Orders. In due course he was admitted into the priesthood, and first exercised his spiritual functions as chaplain in an educational institute for orphans at Rome, founded by a poor citizen for the benefit of his poorer brethren. From this quiet sphere of duty he was called away by the Pope, and sent out to South America, where he spent some years as auditor to Monsignore Mugi, Vicar Apostolic of Chili. On his return to Europe, Pope Leo XII. appointed him Prelate of his household, and President of the great Hospital of St. Michael, on the Ripa Grande. In 1827, being then in his thirty eight year, he was raised to the archbishopric of Spoleto, from which see he was transferred in December, 1831, to that of Imola. Whilst here, his purse and his personal goods were placed by him at the disposal of the poor to such an extent, that his steward often knew not how to provide for the wants of the archiepiscopal household. In 1840, he was elevated to the dignity of Cardinal; and it is said that the only occasion on which he ever quitted his diocese was that of this compulsory visit to Rome to receive his Cardinal's hat.

Pope Gregory XVI. died on the 1st of June 1846. The Cardinal Archbishop was summoned to attend the solemn conclave of the Sacred College, held for the purpose of electing a successor to the Papal chair. The first ballot being unsuccessful, as no candidate had a sufficient number of votes, a second reckoning of votes took place, and Cardinal Ferretti, who was one of the scrutators, found a majority (thirty-five) recorded in his favor. He was proclaimed Pope at once, under the title of Pius IX. and solemnly crowned, on the 21st of the same month, at St. Peter's.

On assuming the Pontifical chair Pope Pius IX. was but fifty-four years old, being one of the youngest Popes ever elected. His accession was hailed with general satisfaction, his personal virtues and affability of character having endeared him to the people. He took immediate steps for the granting of an amnesty for past offences against the government, for the discharge of the public debt, and for the prevention of the infringements which the police displayed too great readiness to make upon the personal liberties of his subjects. He likewise submitted to the consideration of the Council of State propositions for the discharge of all foreign troops, then employed in the Papal dominions, for a more extended system of public education, and a remission of the censorship of the press. On the 16th of the same month a decree of amnesty, signed by the Pope himself, without any countersign of a Minister, appeared, granting a free pardon in all criminal proceedings for acts against the State. The enthusiasm of the Roman people on the publication of this decree exceeded all bounds. Accompanied by musicians, they repaired to the Quirinal, where, in response to their repeated acclamations, the Pope was obliged to present himself four times upon the balcony to receive their homage.

During the entire of the first year of his Pontificate the exertions of the Pope were directed to perfecting reforms in the Government, lightening the burdens of the people, and restoring the financial prosperity of the country. In these efforts he had to encounter the incessant hostility of the Austrian party, which put in possession of Italy by England, in 1815, had long profited by the confusion and misgovernment that prevailed throughout the peninsula, and saw with unconcealed dislike an approach towards a liberal system of rule. But if the Retrogradists were alarmed at the Liberal tendencies of the Pontiff, the consternation of the Mazzinists was greater. They saw the Pope was every day becoming more beloved by the people, whom no efforts of misrepresentation could induce to disregard the evidences, continually presented, of his desire to govern for the general good. He spread content among the people and ensured peace and tranquility the very last things desired by the infidel Revolutionists: and as they could not hope to keep alive the ferment of the popular mind, their efforts were directed to force the Pope back into the arms of the Austrians. Unfortunately, circumstances favored their designs.

On the 22nd February, the Revolution began in Paris; on the 24th, the people took the Tuileries by assault; and Louis Philippe—who would have conceded Reform when he no longer had the power—fled to England, whose friend and tool he had long been. The Republic was proclaimed. The impulse spread all over Europe, and the people everywhere became intoxicated with joy as they saw the dawn of freedom once more break upon their long night of slavery. It was at this time that Pope Pius IX. had just matured his plan for the construction of the two Chambers, as the basis of the representation of the nobles, and the people in the government of Rome; and the promulgation of the Constitution took place soon after. The two parties already indicated beheld these proceedings with dismay, and left nothing undone to check the progress of the Pope as a reformer. And they did succeed; though the whole credit of that success must be given to Mazzini and his party, who did every vile and violent and mischievous act, which was calculated to bear out the fears and prophetic warnings of the Conservatives, and thereby

deter the Pope from proceeding in his career. The sequel is well known, and needs but to be briefly repeated here. The scene which occurred at the opening of the Chamber of Deputies, the assassination of Count Rossi, the arming of the people of Rome, their collision with the Swiss Guards, the detention of the Pope as a prisoner within his own palace, his refusal to sanction the acts of the Mazzinian Ministry that had usurped the reins of government, and finally, his escape to Gaeta, are within the memory of all. So also is the fate of the ephemeral Republic which was proclaimed by the revolutionary party, only to be as quickly extinguished by the combined arms of Republican France and despotic Austria.

For eighteen months Pius IX. continued in exile at Gaeta and Portici, near Naples; when, escorted by the Neapolitan troops, and amidst the thunder of French cannon, he returned to the city of Rome, April 14th, 1850.

The second revolution which followed the expulsion of the Austrians from Italy, the Invasion of the Pontifical States by the Sardinians, the withdrawal of the French garrison from Rome, the seizure of the city by Victor Emmanuel, and the virtual seclusion of the Pontiff within the limits of the Vatican, are events that belong to the present time, and need no extended recapitulation. They served, however, to show the attachment of the Catholic population of the world to their chief Bishop; for stripped as he was of all his temporal possessions, and reduced to the condition of a prisoner in his own palace, Pope Pius IX. was stronger in the hearts and affections of the Catholic millions than even in the days when he seemed most popular and prosperous in his own territories: and the outpouring of the faithful to do honor to him on the occasion of his Jubilee, last May, and the spontaneous tribute of reverence and affection paid him from all parts of the world have no parallel in the history of any of his predecessors. His reign as Pontiff was glorious and fruitful of good to his people and to humanity at large. Until deprived of his temporal possessions, his paternal care of his subjects was evinced in a charity that was boundless, and a zeal for education which found its exposition in the erection of schools, hospitals and public works of general utility. In private life he was characterized by a gentle softness and suavity of manner and easiness of approach that won the love and respect of all who came in contact with him. Altogether, his Pontificate has been one of the most remarkable in the history of Church, whether considered in the light of the advancement of religion, or for the virtues and sufferings of him to whose efforts and wisdom that progress has been so largely owing.

(True Witness.)

Leo The Thirteenth.

His Eminence Cardinal Gioachino Pecci, Archbishop of Perugia, was elected to the papal throne under the above title on the 20th February instant, on the second day of the meeting of the conclave.

This extraordinary quick election shows the general esteem in which the present Holy Father was held by his brother Cardinals. He has assumed the name of Leo, out of affection for the last Pope of that name, who died Feb., 1829. LEO XIII. was born of noble family in Carpenitto in the diocese of Anagnin, on the 2nd of March, 1810. He is richly favoured by nature in a noble and commanding presence, a mild but penetrating glance, and graceful manners. His talents are of a very high order. He performed his studies in the Roman College and in the ecclesiastical Academy for nobles, where he attained high distinction in theology and laws. Pope Gregory XVI. appointed him domestic prelate on the 16th of March, 1837. He was soon named Promotary Apostolic, and Pontifical Delegate to Benevento, Spoleto, and Perugia. He gained so much distinction in these offices that he was appointed in 1843 Archbishop of Damietta, and sent to the King of the Belgians as Apostolic Nuncio, in which delicate office he was singularly successful. Monsignor Pecci on his return from Belgium was named to the See of Perugia. In a Consistory of the 19th January, 1846, on being named to the above See, he was created Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church being reserved *in pello*. The Pope died before he was preconized Cardinal, but the late great Pontiff Pius IX. in a Consistory of the 9th December, 1853, created him Cardinal of the Order of Priests, under the title of St. Chrysostom, and he was assigned to the congregations of Rites and also of Discipline of Religious Orders. He governed his diocese with rare prudence and with profound wisdom, and performed all the duties of a vigilant pastor. He was surrounded by continual vexations, but his moderation united to an intrepid virtue acquired him respect and veneration even from his enemies. He addressed many pastoral letters full of wisdom and learning to his diocesans. As Cardinal who was named to the first dignity after the Pope, he was Grand Chamberlain of the Holy Roman church and chief administrator during the vacancy of the Holy See. He is a great Pope and worthy successor of Pius IX.