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VOL. XI. No. 29

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1903

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CALM DEATH OF POPE LEO

With His Eyes Fixed On the Crucifix He Surrendered His Soul to God

How the News Was Received in Rome and Throughout the World

Rome, July 20, 4.20 p.m.—The Pope died shortly after 4 o'clock this afternoon. His last moments were comparatively peaceful and painless, and were preceded by a period of insensibility. Around the bedside at the final moments were the Cardinals, the relatives and members of the Papal Court. Before lapsing into unconsciousness the dying Pontiff feebly moved his lips, his last articulate words being those used in bestowing a benediction. Gradually the shadow of death spread over the Pontiff, his extremities became cold, his features assumed the fixed rigidity of death, and Dr. Lapponi noted his last fluttering heartbeats, which gradually became slower and slower, until they finally stopped.

Profound silence reigned in the Pope's bedroom, only broken by the doctors rising to render their expiring patient more comfortable, of the murmured prayers of Mgr. Pifferi, the Papal Confessor, himself 84 years of age, who had to be assisted to the bedside. Softly he recited the prayers for the dying, the Pontiff at one moment appearing to follow them as though conscious of what was transpiring, but he could not speak. Then the dying Pope murmured to himself. Finally, the Pope was asked to bless his nephews and all the others present. The portieres dividing the door were drawn back to the utmost to admit as much air as possible, while the light filtered through the green shades of the window. The doctors again examined the dying Holy Father, and this time found that he was at the extreme limits of his powers of respiration. The last conscious act of the Pontiff was to turn his eyes towards the great crucifix on the wall, after which he passed away.

Then the silence of the awe-stricken assemblage was broken by the sonorous, solemn voice of Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli, the Grand Penitentiary, intoning the requiem aeternam (rest eternal).

The occurrences in the death chamber immediately following the Pope's demise were of impressive solemnity. Couriers had been despatched to summon those who are delegated to perform the first religious offices toward the dead Pope, and soon the chanting of the Franciscan Monks was heard, as, two by two, in coarse brown habits and with sandaled feet, they proceeded to the room in which Leo lay dead. From time immemorial the Franciscans have been penitentiaries of St. Peter's. Following them came the Noble Guard to watch over the Pontiff's remains, the brilliancy of their uniforms contrasting strikingly with the sombre attire of the monks and the solemn dignity of the chamber itself. The only sound heard was the measured chanting of the psalms of penitence by a group of monks kneeling beside the couch of death. Two Noble Guards took up positions

at the foot of the couch, and stood there rigid and silent as statues, with swords drawn and reversed, pointing to the floor. The death chamber presented much the same appearance as it did at the time of the final illness of the Pope.

The great piazza of St. Peter's was soon a scene of wild confusion. As word of the Pope's death became known, although the public had day after day expected the tidings, the shock of the actual event was none the less profound. Everywhere people stopped to bless themselves and to whisper prayers, wail here and there were seen women on their knees before the street shrines, offering prayers for the soul that had just taken its flight.

Within the massive colonnade fronting St. Peter's great crowds surged to the very doors of the Vatican, even struggling to gain access to the corridors leading to the death-chamber. Across the entrance to the colonnade hung the massive chains, which are usually let down to permit the free circulation of visitors. Three ponderous iron barriers were now looped across the entrance, and behind them stood strong detachments of Swiss guards, with fixed bayonets, presenting a solid wall of iron and steel against further intrusion. Still farther back the groups of journalists and other anxious watchers were likewise thrown into wild confusion. They had been pushed back to the neighboring gates and shops lining the adjacent streets, where they viewed the Vatican entrance from a distance. Their first intimation of the catastrophe was seeing a bicyclist dash from the Vatican entrance, mount his machine and shoot away like an arrow. He was quickly recognized as the signal that the death had occurred.

In the downtown portion of the city, the most perfect order prevailed. Outward evidences of mourning soon began to appear along the Corso. Many of the shops were closed, and funeral emblems hung upon the buildings.

MIND RADIANT TO THE LAST.

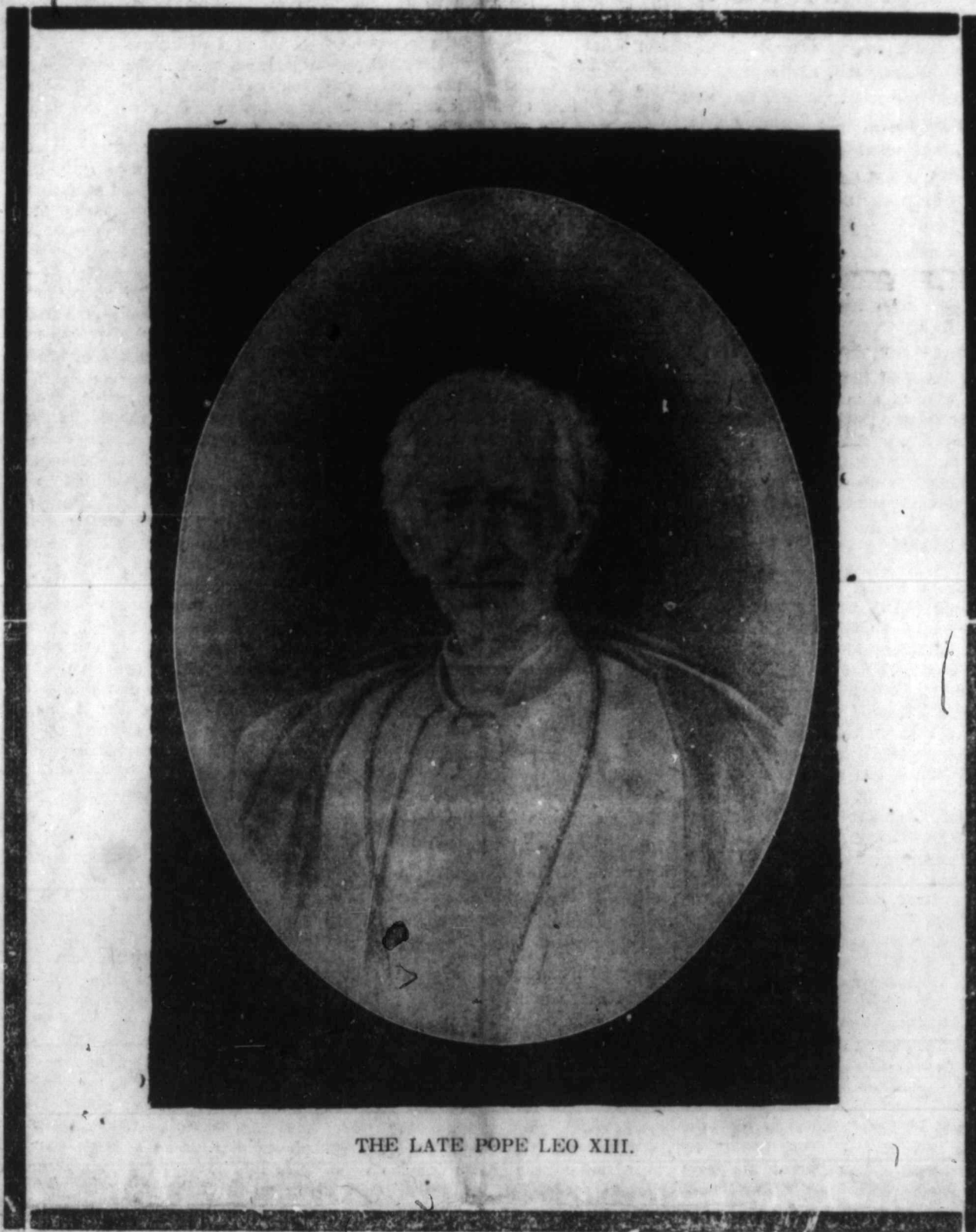
The Rome correspondent of The London Times says that Pope Leo preserved until the end the full use of his mental faculties. It was not with him, as it is often with the very aged, that the mind died first. However low the flame of life flickered in the dying body, there was no darkening of the steady radiance of his intellect, nor any failing in the serene equanimity wherewith he awaited the summons that must sometimes seem to have been long in coming. His was the courage that was content to wait and endure. "Have courage, Holy Father!" said Cardinal Rampolla, on taking leave the other day. "Courage," His Holiness replied with gentle irony, "have I no courage?" It was, indeed, a quality he never lacked. It shone out from his very face. There are many who must remember his appearance, when, surrounded by all the splendor of the Pontifical Court, he was carried to St. Peter's for his jubilee. The fragile form, bent with the weary weight of years and office, the wasted, pallid and deep-lined face, gave an idea of infinite fatigue, but in the deep-sunk eyes there still lurked the unquenched fire that betrayed the indomitable soul. We know from his pathetic lines and verses how heavy the burden sometimes was, but the great keys are now surrendered, and the weight borne so many years with such gallant and unflinching courage has been lifted at last.

PROBABLE DATE OF CONCLAVE.

Rome, July 21.—The government of the Catholic Church has been officially assumed by Cardinal Oreglia as Dean of the Sacred College, and as Dean of the Cardinal Bishops.

According to a statement coming from a high ecclesiastic, arrangements at the Vatican are being pressed forward which will enable the Conclave of Cardinals to begin sitting Aug. 1.

London, July 21.—Long biographical sketches, memoirs and editorials are called forth by the death of the Pope, and the English papers teem with expressions of the warmest sympathy and deep regret on account of his simple saintly life and admiration for the statesmanlike qualities displayed by him throughout his Pontificate. A contrast is drawn between



THE LATE POPE LEO XIII.

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the unique position the Papacy now holds in international consideration compared with its shattered, discredited position at the time of the death of Pius IX. His victory over Bismarck is everywhere recalled as the most brilliant example of his diplomatic sagacity, and the editors dilate upon the successful manner in which he reconciled himself to the spirit of modern times in his dealings with France, America and England.

MGR. MERRY DEL VAL.
 Rome, July 21.—At this morning's meeting of the Congregation of Cardinals Monsignor Merry del Val, the first Apostolic Delegate to Canada, was provisionally appointed Secretary of the Consistorial Congregation, replacing the late Monsignor Voiponi. This, probably, will be followed by making the provisional appointment permanent. The position of Secretary of the Consistorial Congregation has additional importance, since it will lead to the nomination of Mgr. Merry del Val as Cardinal by the new Pope.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.
 London, July 21.—King Edward has commanded Irish Secretary Wyndham to express to Cardinal Logue, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, His Majesty's deep regret at the news of the death of the Pope, and to ask His Eminence to convey to the Sacred College His Majesty's sincere regrets.

London, July 21.—The Irish Parliamentary Party held a meeting at Westminster to-night, under the Chairmanship of John Redmond, and adopted resolutions extending condolences upon the death of the Pope and paying tribute to his noble character and saintly life. Sir Thomas Esmond, member for North Wexford, and Captain Donelan, member for Cork, were appointed a committee to represent the Irish party at the obsequies.

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(The World.)
 It is the fashion to group Leo XIII, Gladstone and Bismarck, as the three grand old men of Europe. They had very little in common except their length of days and their commanding influence. Nothing could be more at variance than the aims of Gladstone and the aims of Bismarck, and the only similarity was the grim resolution with which each fought for his ideas. Leo XIII was not like either. He may have been equally determined, but he worked by gentle and conciliatory methods. He sought no quarrels, and he quietly put an end to some quarrels that he regarded as essential. It was not that he yielded a great deal, but that he recognized that many disputes are founded on pride, obstinacy and regard for names and traditions.

Many of us, for instance, have been brought up in the belief that there is an irreconcilable quarrel and fight for supremacy between church and state. Leo XIII was always saying to the temporal power: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee," and it is surprising how many difficulties disappear, without any sacrifice of principle, when this attitude is taken. Spiritual power and temporal power depend less upon precise definitions than upon the wisdom with which each is exercised. The real power of a Pope, for instance, depends on the affection and reverence with which he is regarded by the members of the church of which he is the head, and on the wisdom of his own utterances, and on the skill with which he manages his relations with monarchs and governments.

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NEWS OF THE POPE'S DEATH

Message Received by the Apostolic Delegate

Circular Letter from the Archbishop of Toronto—Pontifical Mass of Requiem

OFFICIAL NEWS AT OTTAWA.

Mgr. Sbarretti, the Apostolic Delegate, received news of the Pontiff's death in the following cablegram: "With great sorrow I inform you of the death of the Holy Father, which occurred at 4 o'clock to-day, surrounded by the Sacred College of Cardinals. (Signed) Rampolla, Secretary of State."

The Papal Delegate replied: "The hierarchy, the clergy, and the people mourn the great loss of their common father. (Signed) Sbarretti."

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP.

The Archbishop of Toronto was officially notified on Monday afternoon by Mgr. Sbarretti, the Apostolic Delegate, that the death of the Pope had occurred. Rev. Father Cruise at once notified the clergy in the different parishes, and the various communities and sisterhoods. The tolling of the bells after the ringing of the Angelus at 6 o'clock conveyed the news to the mass of the Catholic population and thousands of silent prayers ascended for the repose of the soul of the deceased Pontiff.

The following is the circular sent out to the priests of this diocese by Archbishop O'Connor.

Dear Rev. Father—It is announced officially that the Holy Father has given up his soul to God. His work is done and well done. Our duty is now rather to pray than to praise, and the news of the death will bring to Catholic lips the prayer: Eternal rest give to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

On Wednesday, the 22nd inst., or as soon after as it will be convenient for you and your flock, you will please carry out the directions given in our letter of the 9th inst., to be observed in the event of the Holy Father's death.

To the duty of praying for the eternal welfare of Leo XIII., whose memory will be cherished by the present generation, is now added the further duty of earnest prayer to God to give him a worthy successor in the chair of Peter. That each duty may be fulfilled effectively we direct as follows:

During the vacancy of the Holy See all priests will say in Mass, whenever the Rubrics permit it, the prayers of the Mass pro eligendo Summo Pontifice. After the daily Mass, three Our Fathers and Hail Marys will be said for the repose of the soul of Leo XIII., to be followed by the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, that Her intercession may obtain for the Church a sovereign Pontiff, acceptable to the heart of Her Divine Son. These prayers will also be said in family and private devotions once a day until certain news of the election of a visible head of the Church reaches us.

On the first Sunday after the election the Te Deum will be said or sung after the parish Mass, to thank God for providing His Church with a chief pastor.

Blessing you and your flock, I remain, Dear Rev. Father, Yours very faithfully,
 Denis O'Connor,
 Archbishop of Toronto.

J. M. Cruise,
 Secretary,
 St. John's Grove, Toronto, July 20.

PONTIFICAL REQUIEM MASS.

His Grace Archbishop O'Connor celebrated Pontifical Requiem Mass for the soul of the late Pope Leo XIII. in the Cathedral on Wednesday last. Rev. Father Rohleder, Rev. Father Murray, Rev. Father Roche assisted. Rev. Dr. Treacy was master of ceremonies. After the Gospel His Grace addressed the congregation. They all knew, he said, the sad event which called them together to-day. They came to assist at the offering of the Holy Sacrifice for the late Pontiff. Their duty now was one of prayer for the repose of the soul of Leo XIII., who had done so much during his life for the honor of God and the advancement of the Catholic religion. After Mass the Solemn Absolution of the Dead was performed by the Archbishop. Rev. Father Bergin and Rev. Father Papineau, S. J., and the Brothers of the Christian schools were present in the Sanctuary.

EXPRESSIONS OF THE CANADIAN PRESS.

(The Globe.)
 The greatest grief of his latter days was the expulsion or suppression of the French religious societies. This must have seemed to him peculiarly benign after his formal, considerate, and beneficial recognition of the French Republic a few years before.

Leo XIII. was personally one of the most admirable and lovable of men. Gentle in disposition, refined in temperament, gifted with rare ability, and cultivated to an unusual degree, he must have been a charming companion, the more so as he had also a keen sense of humor. He was a poet by nature and was also a master of the poetic art. His published Latin verse approaches the classic style of the Augustan age as nearly as any modern Latin verse has ever done. (Mail and Empire.)

In social questions, and the interminable struggle between labor and capital, the Pope always evinced a warm and a helpful interest. His influence was towards the peaceful solution of the great problems of modern civilization through mutual concessions. In the wider sphere of international affairs the prisoner of the Vatican was an accomplished diplomat. Always opposed to war, he yet refrained from inopportune declarations. Although Great Britain is one of the countries that does not accord an Ambassador to the court of Rome, the relations of the late Pope with the British Sovereign have always been of a friendly, and, in fact, of a cordial nature. That the late Queen was held in high esteem by the Pope, his messages on the occasions of her jubilee and finally of her death, fully revealed. With France, the favored but often wayward child of the Church, the Papal relations have been sustained in spite of the severe strain to which they have been subjected. (Montreal Star.)

As he was deeply esteemed and valued by the whole world, so the entire company of human peoples will mourn his death. The sympathy with his own church will be sincere and universal. They have lost a great leader, and humanity has lost one of its best examples of what the holy life can accomplish. It is more than a great office which has been made vacant; a great man has fallen. He came to us in this new century much as a crowning gift from the last. He was born in 1810, when George III. was still King of England and Canada was a Crown Colony, and he died now in the midst of a world which at that time could never have been dreamed of. More than many of his generation, he accepted the changes which the passing years had brought, and sought only to apply the splendid principles inherited from the noble past to the equally splendid opportunities brought in the wide arms of the wonderful present.

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