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VOL. XI. No. 28 TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1903 PRICE FIVE CENTS

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Pope Leo's Sublime Death-Bed

Slowly the End Draws Near—Physical Organs Slow Down Leaving the Mind Serene

LATEST BULLETINS FROM ROME

Rome, July 15.—Dr. Mazzoni was asked this morning: "Is the end imminent?" "It cannot be so called," he said. Dr. Mazzoni said in other words, to make a mistake, let us say it is not far distant.

Rome, July 15.—The noonday bulletin signed by Drs. Lapponi and Mazzoni states that the Pope has several hours quite quiet during the night.

Rome, July 15.—Another remarkable rally in Pope Leo's condition occurred yesterday afternoon after a morning in the course of which his Holiness suffered spells of delirium, and at times his strength sank to the lowest ebb. The end seemed near. He lies in no worse condition than he was on Monday evening, except for the steady elimination of his strength. Monsignor Bisleti, Master of the Chamber, visited the sick room just after midnight, and on emerging stated that the Pontiff's condition was unchanged. A little later the Pope fell into a sleep, which, it has just been announced, is fairly tranquil, although the patient's respiration is troublesome.

UPSETS ALL MEDICAL THEORIES

Yesterday's rally was decidedly antagonistic to every medical theory. It consisted in the patient getting out of the bed on which two nurses pressed, he himself had made all preparations for death. Unassisted even by a fortifying stimulant, he transacted business and received four cardinals, with whom he talked in an animated way. In fact, Pope Leo's record for yesterday, little of which appeared in last night's official bulletin, would be incredible if it were not confirmed by the doctors and Cardinals present in the sick chamber. None seemed more perplexed than the doctors themselves. Dr. Lapponi said frankly: "I cannot imagine how the Pope manages to keep alive."

MAY DIE AT ANY TIME.

According to the physicians, the Pontiff may die at any moment, even in the midst of one of those extraordinary intervals when his mind and body present a comparatively sound appearance. All those around the patient have long since ceased to hold definite opinions regarding the duration of the Pontiff's existence. The slow but progressive diminution of the strength of the august patient foretells the approaching end of the struggle with death, but the doctors will not venture to predict how near the end is. Constant relapses, they say, such as created alarm early yesterday, are gradually wearing down the Pope's constitution, which seems immune from any specific disease. Most persons are inclined to the idea that Pope Leo may go through perhaps two or three repetitions of yesterday's ups and downs, till, as Dr. Rossoni puts it, his pulse stops forever.

CAUSES OF THE END.

Three causes may accelerate the end, viz., continued inability to take nourishment, which was exhibited to-day; sudden heart failure or the progression of phenic disease. The latter is thought the least probable. As day succeeds day it becomes pathologically clear that it is a case of a very old man dying because he has lived his allotted time. The Pope himself yesterday afternoon ordered the four Cardinals to be admitted, and received them standing, he, who is supposed to be at the point of death, saying "Please be seated." He recounted the impressive ceremony of the morning when he received the benediction of the Franciscan Order. The Cardinals informed him of the world-wide prayers for his life. Pope Leo answered that he was much gratified, but that he was ready for his final departure, concluding by saying, "God's will be done."

CONTROVERSY OVER EMBALMING.

Even more striking was the Pope's interest in Monsignor Angeli. His Holiness sent for him saying he wished to see certain papers, which the Secretary brought. Then, after a short explanation, Mgr. Angeli wished to get the Pope's decision on a matter, but Pope Leo said: "Well, well, not to-day. We will do that some other time." A curious controversy is proceeding between the Vatican medical body, composed of ten doctors of lesser importance than Dr. Lapponi, and several foreign physicians over the embalming of Pope Leo's body, several foreigners having offered processes of embalming, each more wonderful than the other. The Papal doctors unearthed bulls giving the right to embalm the Pope solely to the Vatican medical body.

HIS HOLINESS' WILL.

Rome, July 14.—Although much has been said about the Pope's will, nothing positive is yet known, except that, on receiving his nephews, His Holiness said: "As Pope I do not possess anything, as I live by the alms of the faithful. It would be a great detriment to the Church if I should destine to my family even the smallest part of what the people send me by denying themselves. As to my personal property," the Pontiff concluded, "I divided that among you long ago." This declaration did not surprise anyone, it being well known how strong an anti-nepotist Pope Leo has always been. When the Pontiff alluded to his personal fortune he meant his patrimony, of which almost two-thirds came into his hands through the death of his uncle and brothers. Besides this, he had what was called his prelatura, a sum of 40,000 scudi, which for that period was a large amount, and to which, in Papal times, any member of a family embracing the priesthood was entitled. This was given in order to put him in a position to continue his career. In 1881 Pope Leo had all his fortune estimated and divided by Cardinal Lauenz, a most distinguished jurist-consult, among his nieces and nephews, who were obliged to sign a paper declaring that they had received all they were entitled to. When the Pope's brother, Cardinal Guiseppe died in 1890, Pope Leo informed his relatives that he was keeping all his valuable library intact, leaving them their share in money, obliging them to sign another declaration that they had all they could claim.

Pope Leo's Birthplace and Childhood

In the little village of Carpineto, high up in the Lepepint mountains, a village that has produced one of the greatest men of all times and yet has never known a railway, a remarkable work is going on.

Pope Leo XIII. some time ago began regenerating the town in which he was born, the town in which he passed his boyhood, a town that is a

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and who is still proud of his muscle, even to boasting of it like a youth in the first flush of manhood. Ser Nino Leo was the most courageous mountain climber I ever saw," said Father Salvagni, "and we have long been famous for our skill in mountaineering in this part of the country. And at one time he was the best shot in these mountains. So great was his skill with the rifle that he disdained to shoot a bird except on the wing. But study ruined his marksmanship. It was a great pity. I was ashamed of him the last time he visited us, in September, 1857. With other huntsmen I had gone out on the road near Montelanico to meet him. He recognized me in the throng and begged me to lend him my rifle. I handed the weapon to him. He aimed at a bird and hit a tree. It cut me to the heart. He, the best rifleman in the mountains, to miss an easy shot! He never used a gun again. I suppose he felt the disgrace too keenly. He left us on November 2 of that same year never to return.

"In his youth the Holy Father was always called "Nino," and Father Salvagni so called him in speaking of their boyhood days. He walked over the grounds where he and the Pope used to hunt.

"There," he said, pointing to a grotto, "there we used to lie in ambush for rabbits more than seventy-five years ago."

The grotto is near the Cone Orecchie, or Hill of Ears. The name was given to it back in the Middle Ages because it was on this hill that the men of Carpineto cut off the ears of prisoners from the town of Bassiano. Twenty years later those of Bassiano had their revenge, for they captured many of the Carpineto fighters, and on this same hill not only cut off their ears, but their noses as well.

THE POPE'S FLINTLOCK.

In the Pecci palace there stands in a corner of an upper room a flintlock with an excessive long barrel, while all about are the uniforms and costumes of the male Peccis, most of whom were in the service of the Vatican as couriers, councillors, jurists, prelates or military officers, and the bishops and cardinals' robes, mitres, croziers, episcopal rings, gloves and slippers, belonging to the Holy Father, as well as the first white cassock he wore when he became Pope.

It was with this rifle that the future Pope won his fame as a marksman and that its possession meant much to him in those days of poverty is indicated by a letter, carefully prepared, which shows how he came by it. Freely translated, it reads:

"Dear Brother Titta: My friend, Prelate Longhy, offers to let me have his gun cheap, for nine scudi; he paid sixteen for it. I don't want to write to father about it. Think of some means to obtain the money for me. This is an opportunity which comes only once in a lifetime. Your loving brother, NINO."

In a gathering of leading citizens who had known the Pope, the youngest, who was over seventy, told a story that his mother had told him.

"My family used to be serfs of the Peccis," he said, "and one day my mother brought the tax, consisting of cream and cheese. Nino, as the Holy Father was always called as a child, was so anxious to have a taste of the cream that he fell in his mad haste. When my mother picked him up she addressed him with a phrase much heard in Carpineto:

"'Anything else wanted, brother?'

"'A mere brother in my own cloister!' cried Nino.

"'Cardinal,' said my mother, ironically.

"'I want to be Pope,' cried Nino, stamping his feet.

"Only once was the Holy Father ever beaten. That was when he was 12 years old. He and his brother, who was a year older, were so much excited when their mother, the Countess Anna, was pursued to her very door by brigands that they went forth to have a good view of the robbers. In those days the bandits were picturesque-looking creatures, wearing velvet coats and trousers, with silver buttons, red shirts and head handkerchiefs, and carrying many knives and pistols. Their father rescued the youngsters just in time, and then he thrashed them with much vigor.

"To the day of his death there was nothing the Holy Father loved better than to recall his youth in Carpineto. Notwithstanding the years that had passed since he was in his native village, he kept close track of everything that went on there. Not long since the rector of St. John's Church in Carpineto took to Rome members of eight or nine families, that the Holy Father might bless them in passing. They were boys and girls just confirmed. Leo stood still before the group, and, calling up one after another, he said: 'Are you not old Peppo's son or grandson?' 'And you, are you not Sabina's daughter?' And you must belong to the Nagnis.' He went on, naming the family of each, recognizing the traits and characteristics, and he made not a single mistake.

"The Pecci palace in Carpineto is now occupied by Count Ludovico, the Holy Father's unworthy nephew, as he describes himself. He is a man of middle age and has the Pecci features.

LEO'S CHAMBER.

A bedroom plainly furnished was Leo's own chamber, in which he dwelt at different times while he was climbing to the highest office in the Church. The bedstead is inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Over it is a baldachin of violet silk. On the wall is a great painting of Marguerita Pecci, great-grandaunt of the Pope, who died in the fifteenth century, and who is pictures in a garb of a Sister of Servitude. Near the window stands a praying desk of gilded wood, and over it hangs the Pecci family tree, showing they were rulers of Siena before one branch of the family established itself in the fief of Carpineto, under the suzerainty of the Holy See. There is also a wonderful antique writing table, the top of which is of gilded silver. Near by is a leather armchair, the label of which shows that the Pope used it for many years while studying.

When I went down to dinner it was my privilege to sit in the same chair and at the same place that the present Pope occupied more than eighty years ago, when his mother presided at the family board. Soon after he ascended the throne of St. Peter the Pope wrote to his nephew:

"If ever I am allowed to leave the Vatican, I want to visit my father's house and sit in the old dining hall, to think of my dead loved ones. Pray do not move a chair from its accustomed place, not a nail or a picture. If anything threatens to break down have it repaired, so that it will look as it did before."

The furniture must be as old as the house itself, which dates back 500 or 600 years, and everything except the tables and chairs is stationary. Even the family portraits are set in the walls.

In the drawing-room concessions have been made to modern taste. The walls are hung in scarlet brocaded silk and the antique furniture has been newly gilded. More interesting is the chapel, which is connected with the main building by a loggia.

It was in this chapel that Leo XIII. stammered his first prayers; here he went to first Communion; here he was confirmed in the faith. Its chief attraction to the sightseer is a grand fresco painting of the Virgin, with Leo I. on the left and Leo XIII. on the right, receiving the tiara from his predecessor.

"The Holy Father loves this place," said Count Pecci. "His private library in the Vatican has many photographs of the chapel, illustrating every nook and cranny."

"The library is even more interesting, for it contains many souvenirs of the Pope's younger days, as well as those of his greatness. It is a perfectly square room. The walls half covered with bookshelves. All the books are bound in white parchment.

Illness of the Pope

Circular Letter From His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto.

Dear Rev. Father,

Since the news of the illness of the Pope was made public, the world has been deeply interested in the death struggle of its illustrious citizen. To Catholics the event means much more. It is the passing away of the visible head of the Church, the Father of all the Faithful, of one who has been, in every best sense, One Holy Father. It is not, then, a reason for surprise that all have poured forth many and fervent prayers for his recovery. The last news of his condition is such as to demand more fervent and united petitions to the Invisible Head of the Church for the welfare of His representative on earth. To that end we direct as follows:

On Sunday next, the 12th inst., the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in all Parish Churches and Chapels of Religious Communities from the last Mass until the end of Vespers, which will close with Benediction. During that time the Faithful will visit the Church and say the Rosary or a part thereof. During the usual week-day Mass, at which the Faithful will be invited to assist in numbers greater than ordinary, one chaplet of the Rosary will be recited. It will also be recited during night prayer in families or privately.

In the event of the death of the Holy Father, notice of it will be given to the faithful at once by the tolling of the bell for a reasonable time. The bell will be tolled, after the Angelus, for ten minutes each evening until the day of the funeral. In all Parish Churches and Chapels of Religious Communities a High Mass of Requiem will be celebrated on the third day after the death at such an hour as will secure a full attendance of persons belonging to each Church or Chapel. Blessing you and your flock, I remain, Dear Rev. Father,

Yours very faithfully,
DENIS O'CONNOR,
Archbishop of Toronto.

J. M. Cruise, Secretary.

Toronto, July 9th, 1903.

C. M. B. A. Grand Council

The daily papers announce that the Grand Council of the C. M. B. A. held a meeting in Kingston last week and changed the head offices of the Association from London there. This is in direct contradiction of the explanation offered to the Grand Council in London, after the death of the late lamented S. R. Brown. It was then declared by the Grand President that the offices would not be changed from London without asking the advice of the next convention. The papers also announce that Mr. Behan, of Kingston, an old member of the Association, has been appointed Grand Secretary in the room of Mr. Murphy, resigned.

FIRST LOSS BY DEATH

St. Mary's Auxiliary, Knights of St. John, have placed on record a feelingly worded expression of sympathy in connection with the death of Mrs. Eliza O'Connor, of 141½ Farley avenue, the first member cut off from the Auxiliary since its organization five years ago. Mrs. O'Leary is president of the Auxiliary.

Annual Pilgrimage to St. Anne De Beaupre

Itinerary of Special Trains.

Tuesday, July 21st.

The Ontario Pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, under the distinguished patronage of the Most Rev. Archbishop of Kingston and Diocesan Clergy, will take place (this year) on Tuesday, July 21st. Tickets for the return journey will be good to leave St. Anne up to the evening of Monday, July 27th. Thus, all those who desire to remain over will have an opportunity of being present at the shrine and of taking part in the grand procession on the Feast Day of La Bonne Ste. Anne, Sunday, July 26th.

After the arrival of the morning regular express trains, which leaves Toronto at 8.40 a.m. on T. H. & B. and 9.15 a.m. on G. T. R., special trains will start from Whitby and Myrtle stations on the main lines of the G. T. R. and C. P. R. to points east of Toronto, and will reach St. Anne de Beaupre early on Wednesday morning.

Excursion rates will prevail from stations of the G.T.R. from Whitby, Lindsay, Haliburton, Peterboro and all points east thereof as far as Smiths Falls, and at all stations of the C. P. R. from Myrtle and all points east thereof, including Peterboro, Tweed, Perth, Smith's Falls, Prescott, Brockville and Carleton Place, as far as Chesterville, included. The exceptionally low rates of $8.05 and $8 have been secured for return tickets from Whitby and Myrtle, with proportionately low rates throughout the eastern part of the Province.

Tickets will be good only on the special trains going, but valid on any regular train returning up to and including Monday, July 27th. This means that excursionists can leave Quebec on the night trains of Monday, July 27th, and Montreal on the morning of July 28th, but a stop-over at Quebec and Montreal is desired, by must be so timed as to leave Montreal for a continuous journey home not later than the morning of Tuesday, July 28th. Passengers from Haliburton and Lindsay will take regular trains and connect with special at Port Hope. Passengers from Manitoulin will take regular trains and connect with special at Whitby Junction. Excursionists from Toronto, western Ontario and other points will leave Toronto by regular morning express trains on Tuesday, procure regular return tickets as far as Whitby or Myrtle, purchase Pilgrimage tickets at either of these stations, and then take special trains, which will be awaiting them, and proceed to St. Anne deBeaupre. For the benefit of the excursionists of Toronto and west thereof, it may be mentioned that ten persons travelling together can purchase regular return tickets from any station to Myrtle or Whitby for one fare and a third. This will make return ticket—Toronto to St. Anne's—considerably less than $10.

The Pilgrimage will be under the immediate direction of Rev. D. A. Twomey, Tweed, Ont., who will promptly send posters containing the fullest information to intending Pilgrims.

Dining cars will be attached to the C. P. R. special, in which excellent meals may be procured on the journey downwards and whilst at St. Anne's, for the nominal cost of 25 cents.

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