

THE THIRTEENTH LEO.



HE grand old men who were born in "Eighteen hundred and ever so few," and who counted many of them, eight decades and more of the splendid century now closed, have all been outrun in the race, by the wonderful man, who holds the mystic keys, the precious trust of Jesus to Peter and of Peter to his successors. Leo, the thirteenth of the name, the two hundred and sixty-third calling himself the "Servant of the servants of God" is a leader known and renowned as such; a leader of the people, not in the old world nor in the new world alone, but of the people, rich and poor alike, the whole world over; a leader, loving and beloved and yet supreme. Such is Leo; his name has been well chosen, from the first to the thirteenth, the Leos have been, as men and pontiffs, *sans peur et sans reproche*. The present bearer of the name is a man who has read the age, and knows its evils and its fallacies by heart, just as he knows the remedy of all.

One need not fear after this long test under "the strong white light" that strikes all summits, to say that Leo the thirteenth is the most widely known and supremely, unquestionably, influential man of this age. His influence is felt in all states and conditions of life, by the individual, the classes and the nations. He is known and talked of not only by Catholics and in Catholic countries, but by men of every sect and in all countries; he is a diplomat, a man of infinite tact and of many resources, a man of the world, in the best sense of the word, but he is above all a man of God, *the* man of God. It is more as a sovereign and as a leader that he is thus well known. As a man, possessing individual tastes and characteristics, unburdened of all public responsibility and free to follow the inclination of his will in his pursuits and manner of living, there are but few that know him, and thus by the multitude, he is and can be only half appreciated. But how absurd and ridiculous to speak of Leo XIII being without responsibility; how foolish to imagine that a Pope of Rome is for a moment released from his great weight of care. Not for him comes that happy mood