

# New Dominion Monthly.

MAY, 1877.

## ROME'S SECOND STEP.

### POPE INNOCENT III.



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ing further the inroads which, under his direction, priestly ambition had already made on princely power. The year 1198, however, saw the election of Lothario Conti to the Papal throne, under the name of Innocent III., and then the strange apathy which, for more than a century, seemed to have fallen upon the successors of the great Hildebrand, was all at once shaken off, and the Papal See once more with skill, determination and never-ceasing industry, began its encroachments upon the civil domain. Innocent shared completely the opinions of his greater predecessor, Gregory, and considered it the mission of the Pope to be the ruler of the earth, the king of kings. Hildebrand had come to the throne an old man,—with vast

ONE hundred and thirteen years had elapsed since Gregory VII., a fugitive and an exile, had laid his weary head to rest, amidst the ruins of Salerno. In the interval, nineteen successive prelates had assumed the tiara of St. Peter; but none had so far been found capable of carrying on the vast enterprise he so boldly had begun, and push-

experience, it is true, but still weighted down to a certain extent by the number of his years. Conti assumed the tiara at seven and thirty, in the prime of his life and the hey-day of his energies. Hildebrand had been the pioneer; he was the first with infinite trouble to mark out the tortuous route. Conti had this advantage, that