

TO REIGN UNTIL 1898.

Remarkable Prophecy of a Monk Regarding Leo XIII.

He Predicted his Election.

Also that the Pope Would Live Twenty Years After—Will it all Come True?—Effect of the Prophecy.

The remarkable activity displayed by Leo XIII. in formulating new policies and in inaugurating movements for extending the sphere of the churches influence, has been the wonder of his friends. He has taken up measures and started policies which only a man who hoped for a long life ought to undertake. When his friends protested and pointed out that his health had never been sound, that he was endangering practical interests in taking up others which the future could look after, that he must not expect to live far beyond seventy, he has scoffed their warnings and worked away at the most venturesome enterprises as if he had the secret of an earthly immortality. But all Rome knows the reasons. Leo XIII. relies on a prophecy that he will reign until 1898, and thereby hangs an interesting story.

PROPHCY OF PADRE PHILIPPO.

When Pius IX. was approaching his last days there was the usual speculation as to his probable successor. The present Pope was then Cardinal Pecci, and was little thought of as the successor to Pionono. He was of a delicate fragile appearance, known as a student, and not in favor with the Romans. At the time there lived in Rome an old and saintly priest known as Padre Philippo. His superior said to him one day, between jest and earnest: "Padre Philippo, who will be our next Pope?" Padre Philippo answered, with promptness and simplicity, although he was the humblest and least pretentious of men: "Cardinal Pecci will be the next Pope, and he will reign twenty years." "I know nothing but that he will be Pope, and will reign twenty years." was the only remark that could be got from the priest in reply to raillery and inquiry on the part of his companions. When it became known that Padre Philippo had prophesied in Cardinal Pecci's favor, the Diplomatic Corps began to study his chances closely.

FIRST PART OF THE PREDICTION.

When in 1878 Pius IX. died, Cardinal Pecci entered upon the duties of Papal chamberlain in the interregnum between the Pope's death and the assemblage of the conclave, and ably discharged the duties. At last the conclave assembled. Day by day the people watched the smoke issue from the Vatican chimney, telling the story of burning ballots and the failure to elect a Pope. At last, on Feb. 20, the smoke failed to issue from the pipe, and shortly after, from the loggia of St. Peter's, a banner with the legend "Pecci" announced the election and the successful candidate. The first part of the prophecy had proved true.

LEO XIII'S CONFIDENCE IN IT.

Of course, Leo XIII. had been the first to hear of Padre Philippo's prophecy, and, as soon as he had the time, sent for the old priest, that he might hear with his own ears a prophecy of which he had heard so much. The saintly priest repeated his prophecy with a child's simplicity. "How do you know that I shall reign twenty years?" said the Pope. "I know nothing, but that you will reign twenty years, and accomplish much for the world," said the old man. He never said more on the subject, and lived only a few years longer, held in the highest honor by the Pope.

Now for the second part of the prophecy Leo XIII. made up his mind to accept the prediction of a twenty years, reign. He set his whole policy to that key. It was presented to him that a few matters of importance well handled would be of value to the Church while many things just begun in the face of death would be useless. His one reply to each objection was: "I shall live a few years more, long enough to start this matter well."

GREAT MOVEMENTS UNDERTAKEN.

In this mood he took up all the great movements. At very crisis his opponents were encouraged to hold on in the hope of his speedy death. He was nerved to refuse all compromise by the thought that he had some years yet to live. When negotiating to bring Bismarck to Canossa, as the saying is, the chancellor made a few breaks on the expectation of his speedy departure.

When he adopted the cause of the democracy, and declared his intention to support France, forbidding the French bishops to say a word against the Republic, the monarchists smiled at the thought that he would not live long enough to make his support effective. He lived long enough to prevent the heir of the Count of Paris from parading as an official claimant to the French throne, and to let the young man know that he was not wanted at the Papal court.

THE POPE SURE HE WILL LIVE.

Instances without number might be cited to prove the confidence which the

Pope has had in the prophecy. One must suffice here. It is well known that he is bent on giving the hat to Delegate Satolli before he dies. It would not do to leave the delegate to the favor of the next administration. At any moment he could raise Mgr. Satolli to the Sacred College by a special brief, and his friends have urged it, on the plea of advanced age and debility. "Don't trouble yourselves," has been the steady reply of His Holiness. "I shall live some years yet."

It remains to be seen whether that prediction will be fully verified. Yet how much history has been made by the clear-sightedness of the old priest; for there is no doubt that Leo XIII. has begun and carried out schemes of admiration and reform which he might never have attempted but for the prediction.

N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

TRIBUTE TO MR. COSTIGAN.

"J. J." Takes up the cudgels for Him in an Irish Paper.

The Belfast News-letter of April 29th contains the following letter:—

Sir,—In your cable despatch from New York, published yesterday, it is stated that Mr. O'Brien, who is described as a "Conservative McCarthyite," having introduced a double-barrelled bill in the Canadian House of Commons providing for the abolition of French as an official language, and of separate schools for French Roman Catholics in the Northwest, in the course of his speech on the occasion "made a most violent and personal attack on Mr. Costigan, who, he declared, was unfit for the post even of a third class clerk, and who had climbed into the Dominion cabinet on the strength of his religion."

In justice to the Honorable John Costigan, who, no doubt, is well and favorably known by reputation to thousands of Irishmen, allow me to state that for nearly thirteen years he has been a member of the Dominion Cabinet. In the year 1882, if I remember rightly, he was selected by the late Sir John Macdonald—among the ablest statesmen of his time—for the position of Minister of Inland Revenue. When the late Sir John Abbott formed an administration as successor to Sir John Macdonald in the premiership, Mr. Costigan was offered and consented to retain that position. In the administration of the late Sir John Thompson (who it will be remembered, died whilst the guest of Her Majesty, at Windsor Castle, in December last) Mr. Costigan held the position of Secretary of State; and at present, in the administration of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, he holds the important portfolio of Marine and Fisheries. Knowing something of public sentiment in Canada, I do not hesitate to say that Mr. O'Brien's abusive attack upon Mr. Costigan will prove as harmless as shooting peas at the fortress of Gibraltar; for that gentleman enjoys not only the confidence and esteem of the general body of the Irish Roman Catholics of Canada, but of his Protestant fellow-countrymen, who regard him as an honest, conscientious politician, and who know him to be true as steel to any cause with which he identifies himself. As a Canadian statesman, Mr. Costigan has been among the most active of Conservative public men, ever ready at all times, in season and out of season, to render services to his party, believing that in so doing he was serving the best interests of his country. As the administrator of several public departments he has been zealous, painstaking and successful, and to the discharge of his official duties he has brought that invaluable quality—sound common-sense. He never made any pretensions to oratory—especially oratory of the "hifalutin" character—but he is a capital speaker, earnest, deliberate and logical. He does not attempt the use of rhetorical embellishment in his public utterances; but what he has to say is spoken in plain, unmistakable English, straight to the point, and unambiguous.

Mr. Costigan, and the present Prime Minister of Canada have long been personal as well as political friends; and the fact that Mr. Costigan is a member of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's Administration is in itself a fresh proclamation of the maintenance of that happy unity which has caused Canadian statesmen of different nationalities and different forms of religious belief to work harmoniously together in official harness for the good of their common country.

When Sir John Macdonald selected Mr. Costigan for a Cabinet position he put his hands upon a worthy representative man; and from 1882 to the present time, in four Administrations, Mr. Costigan's services have demonstrated the wisdom of Sir John Macdonald's choice.

Belfast, April 27th. J. J.

20 Miles to Procure Medicine.
Winfield, Ont.,
W. H. COMSTOCK, Brockville.

DEAR SIR,—Am selling your "Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills" in this locality. I have customers who come 20 miles for the sake of getting Morse's Pills. This speaks for itself as to their value. I use them in our family with "the most satisfactory results." My wife has been cured of "sick headache" by their use. We could not do without them, Yours, etc., A. KRAMPEN.

THE CHURCH MILITANT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONQUERING IN THE LEAGUE OF THE SACRED HEART.

(By Mary Hughson.)

Grandly, noiselessly, like a magnificent army of disciplined soldiers moving in unbroken line, surmounting every obstacle in its pathway, comes the sublime legion called the League of the Sacred Heart, gaining, as it advances in its march, millions of recruits, who, entering its ranks, cry out in voice and in spirit the inspired battle-cry "Thy Kingdom Come!"

Silently, gently, down through the long years, has it moved, and while Satan's forces of infidelity and heresy surround it and attempt to cross its heroic lines without clash of arms, without noise of blaring trumpets, and swiftly it glides over its evil foe and sweeps on, while the disappointed cries of its defeated foes add but glory to its advances. Christ is the Leader of this glorious legion, and the Divine Heart is its standard. Not with fire and sword does this noble army march on to conquer, but with the soft words of Love and mercy will it vanquish the foes of eternal happiness.

Among the rank and file of this great legion there is not one soul who cannot become a leader of others, not one who cannot add a band of recruits to the army.

They who do so are called "Promoters," and they are especially loved by the Divine Leader, Jesus Christ. It would possibly surprise and frighten some Protestant ministers were they to know that members of their congregation are actual associates of the League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and yet it is in this devotion if he or she will enroll in the "morning offering." A number of them do, and cheerfully give their names to be enrolled.

There is a young lady, Miss J., who is an active, energetic promoter of the League. She is not satisfied, as some promoters are, with simply distributing the leaflets every month to fifteen members, but she believes in spreading the devotion, so that every Catholic in the parish shall be a member of it. Therefore, she actually goes from house to house, wherever she hears of a Catholic family residing, and speaking to them, telling them how very easy it is to become a member, she secures scores of names. These she divides into bands of fifteen and hands them over to other promoters who visit these members once a month, bringing them the leaflets containing the prayer to be daily said by each member, the intention to which the prayers are daily directed, and the beautiful general intention selected by the Holy Father. She has registered a number of Protestants among her members, one of whom daily says the decade of the Rosary, thereby becoming an associate of the second degree.

Going into a house she was shown a poor man lying ill of pneumonia. His mind was delirious and he was in great pain. The promoter placed over his heart one of the League badges and said: "Ever since you gave me that badge I have felt better, I got stronger shortly after, as my landlady said, and now I say that prayer every day. I feel much better and happier since the dear Sacred Heart came to me in my loneliness."

It is a positive fact that wonderful cures often follow the application of a promoter's cross. A promoter is privileged to use the cross for the same. There are a few instances of cures related to the young lady above referred to: A poor woman, the mother of eight young children, lay ill and apparently was about to die. The attending physician had said there was no hope of her life. She had received the last sacraments and the sad husband and children looked for her death. A good Sister of Charity heard of the sorrowful case and requested the promoter to go to her and apply the blessed cross. Miss J. went to that sick woman. She applied the cross to her three times in the name of the Most Holy Trinity. That was Thursday evening. The sufferer felt a change for the better coming over her which continued until Sunday, when she again appeared to be dying. The promoter came once more to her. "Keep up courage," said she, "the Sacred Heart of Jesus is to work a miracle in your favor."

Her words were true. Another change came over the patient, after the cross was again applied to her. Next morning she felt considerably better, and by Tuesday she had left her bed. The following Sunday when the promoter called again she greeted her gladly and told her how quickly her health was improving. "It is all due to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," said she, "and my husband and my children are grateful to God for His goodness to us. How kind you were to come to bring me that cross and to enroll us in the League."

This promoter applied her blessed cross to the dislocated arm of a newborn infant and it was quickly straightened and cured of the deformity. An old lady who suffered with a pain in her side had a badge applied to it by Miss J. She became a member of the League and was cured of the pain. A Protestant lady traveled from our country home to visit the shrine of St. Paul of the Cross, she desired to be freed of a great pain which afflicted her left side. While she was stopping at her sister's house, which was on the route to the

shrine, this zealous promoter called upon her sister and, hearing them both speak with such faith, understood they were Catholics. She asked the suffering woman whether she would like to have the cross applied to her side. The lady gladly consented, and the pain at once left her and did not return.

In this parish, where Miss J. is thus working for the cause of the Sacred Heart, a surprising increase of monthly communicants has been gladly noted by the pastor. If all promoters would imitate her example in every parish all through the United States what a vast multitude would be enrolled in the League? The prayer is so short, so simple, that no one should refuse to become a member of the League. Yet there are some careless Catholics who do so, as this promoter has frequently found. One man, the husband of a good woman who was a member, was cursing and swearing one day when Miss J. called to bring the leaflet to his wife. He refused to become a member of the League at first. She told him the following true story, and finally persuaded him to have his name enrolled:

Going into a house one day she met a Catholic wife married to a Protestant husband. She enrolled the lady's name and told her that she would leave with her an extra leaflet for her husband. "Put it where he will see it every day, and if he is willing to do so, he can say the prayer, the 'morning offering,'" said she.

A month after, when she called, the wife told the promoter that her husband was quite willing to say the prayer and he would continue to do so. One month Miss J. forgot to leave the leaflet and the husband was quite disappointed. "Be sure to get one of those little prayers for me," said he to his wife, and she did so. The promoter also gave him a badge.

"I hope," said Miss J. to the wife, "that you will try to get to the church for the first Friday of the month; go in the evening to Benediction or, at least, if you can't get away in the evening, go to the church for a few minutes some time during the day to pay a visit to our Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament. Surely your husband will not object to that."

"I will not object," said he; "he is quite free to go to the church."

This man had an unfortunate habit of continually cursing and swearing before his children, as well as elsewhere.

"What shall I tell him to have him stop that sinful practice?" asked his wife, privately, of the promoter.

"Tell him," said Miss J.—"that whenever he feels like swearing to put his hand over his heart where he wears his badge and stop and think before he speaks."

The wife advised him to do so, and gradually he gave up his sinful expressions.

Thousands of speedy answers from the Sacred Heart of Jesus have followed the prayers of the faithful who have placed their written requests in the "Intention" box of the League.

Frequently the promoter has come across careless Catholics, and by a little persuasion has induced them to become associates of the League. A marked improvement in their lives has followed.

Many a good Catholic man and woman living quietly in the world, whose names and deeds are never recorded in print are silently undoing the evil work which some loud-voiced and brazen deputy of Satan is striving through the world. By their personal influence they are exerting over those whom they come in contact with a force which will bring a result of eternal good.

There is now living in a large city a poor but pious woman whose piety is of the active kind. She finds time to pray and time to work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Wherever she can she will go to the sick and the dying, procuring for them the last sacraments of the Church.

She takes a special interest in the colored people, and has had a number of them baptized. These people hold her in the highest esteem, and if one lapses into faults the threat of reporting them fails to her is sufficient to have them try to amend. They call her "Mother," and they are her "dear children."

Their minister is also acquainted with her, and he publicly tells his people that "if any white man's religion is true it is that of Mother—"

ACCIDENT TO FATHER POITRAS.

Last Thursday, Father Poitras, O. M. I., the Archbishop's Bursar, met with a very painful accident. He had hardly seated himself in the carriage when the two horses he was driving became unmanageable and upset the vehicle. Fortunately the whip-tree parted and the brakes ran away; else we might have had to chronicle a still sadder result. The whole thing happened so suddenly that the servantmen were only just in time to extricate the poor Father from the overturned carriage. He was found to be suffering from a fracture of one of the small bones near the ankle and was immediately carried to the St. Boniface Hospital. Fears were at first entertained that he might have sustained some internal injuries; but, happily, these fears have not been realized. The Rev. Father has had the best medical attendance, the leg has been well set, and the patient is, we understand, fairly on the way to recovery. But he needs absolutely no rest allowed to see anyone, and he will soon be completely healed.

LEAGUE OF THE SACRED HEART

General Intention For June.

Eucharistic Works.

Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

The "fire" which our loving Redeemer brought with Him into the world, and which He so ardently longed to see enkindled everywhere on earth, He already, by dint of kindness and tokens of love, spread around Him during the years of His passage among the children of men. When about to return again to His Father He wished to make it clearly manifest that while He had already loved us to excess, His Heart could go further still and love us to the end. *In finem dilexit.*

Hence the institution of the adorable Sacrament of the Eucharist, the summary of all the efforts of His love, the memorial of all the gifts of the Heart of Jesus.

From that moment Faith has ever held up to our gaze Jesus Christ, our Lord, present without intermission on earth; extending and multiplying, His Real Presence at all times and in all places; exerting His personal and vivifying action on the Church and mankind. Wherever a sanctuary was reared to God's glory, there did He choose a home and take up His fixed abode; and it will be to the foot of that throne of mercy that we shall see flocking until the end of time the countless generations of faithful and believing souls.

There are three things which in this devotion constitute the one centre towards which converge, in various ways, all the acts of adoration and homage of our grateful hearts.

There is the Altar where Jesus Christ immolates Himself, the Tabernacle where He has shut Himself in, and the Holy Table where He gives Himself to us. These form the centre from which radiate through the world those pious works which, in keeping with this mystery of love, we term "Eucharistic Works."

Some of these pious associations, with the Altar ever present in view, aim at multiplying the number of "Masses of atonement," impressed as they are with the urgent needs and perils of society, which they would redeem from its iniquities, or with the intention of offering some compensation for the offence perpetrated against God by the absence of so many lukewarm or guilty Catholics who deprive themselves of the happiness of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice.

Others, gathered around the Tabernacle, supply day and night from their ranks a chosen band of worshippers, in all truth, a "Guard of Honor," relieving each other in turn within the very sanctuary or its precincts as an unbroken and loving watch. At other times they assure a royal attendance on their King at the solemn Expositions of the Blessed Sacrament, or, again they encourage the discreet silence of inner supplication or that other fruitful exercise of the Holy Hour.

Others, finally, there are who, eager to find place among the bidden and frequent guests at the Holy Table, through each day around the heavenly banquet board, to comfort by their "Communion of Atonement" the Sacred Heart grieved by the desertion and ungratefulness of mankind, while at the same time they endeavor to appease God's wrath by satisfactory offerings to His justice.

As the devotedness of the Sacred Heart for man reached the last limits of love for us, in the institution of the Holy Eucharist, were it for that only, there can be no excess in the measure of our return of love for Jesus Christ. Excess is not to be feared in the intensity of that requital, but in the various modes of manifestation or expression.

Certain forms of speech, which make their appearance from time to time, have been looked upon with distrust, among others, for instance: "The Eucharistic Heart of Jesus."

The Congregation of the Holy Office instituted to watch over all that relates to the purity of our faith, condemned this novel devotional form. We subjoin the text of the decree as a guidance for our Associates:

"The novel emblematic representations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist do not meet with the approval of the Holy See. The representations of the Sacred Heart already in use, and approved by the Church are quite sufficient to foster the piety of the faithful, seeing that the cult of the Sacred Heart in the Eucharist is neither more perfect than the cult of the Eucharist itself, nor different from the cult of the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Moreover, the same Cardinals, Fathers of the Congregation, have decided that the mind of this same Sacred Congregation, already made clear by the ordinance of Pope Pius IX. of holy memory, dated Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1875, should be made known, to wit: "That a certain class of authors, who are wont to sharpen their wits while treating of these and kindred matters—savoring of novelty, and who, under the guise of piety, strive, even through the columns of the public press, to bring into repute unfamiliar devotional titles, should be warned, that they may desist from any such endeavors, and seriously lead the faithful into error where there is in question of the very tenets of our faith, and let them cease to give of our enemies of religion customarily to sarg at pure Catholic doctrine and true piety."

It is not likely that any of our Associates will be tempted to abandon the sure and beaten track to strike out into unknown and unauthorized paths in quest of nutriment for their piety. Devotions, however attractive in appearance, which are disapproved by the Holy See, may tickle the fancy, but cannot be profitable to the soul. Our Associates, moreover, fully understand that, though love for the Blessed Eucharist and love for the Sacred Heart go hand in hand, the two devotions are quite distinct—the one begets the other; so that it would be impossible to find an ardent lover of the Sacred Heart who was not at the same time a frequenter of the Holy Table, or one truly devout to our Lord offering Himself on our altars, present in the Tabernacle or giving Himself as the food of our souls, who was not eager to become, were he not so already, member of the Apostleship.

All these "Eucharistic Works" and others closely allied to them make a strong appeal to the Catholic heart. But our Associates must remember that if they wish to act up fully to the spirit of the Apostleship, they must take it a point of honor to be foremost in the various practices peculiar to the cult of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which is supereminently a cult of piety, of atonement and of love.

PRAYER.

O Jesus! through the most pure Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all the prayers, work and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of thy Divine Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in reparation of all sins, and for all requests presented through the Apostleship of Prayer: in particular that all "Eucharistic Works" may be blessed by Thee and serve to turn aside Thy Father's wrath, be a comfort to Thy sorrowing Heart and an earnest of eternal life to all who practice them. Amen.

* For similar reasons the title of "Friend of the Sacred Heart" given to St. Joseph has been found fault with by the Holy Congregation (see "Ephemerides Liturg." Oct., 1892), and that of "Mistress of the Sacred Heart," applied to the Blessed Virgin.

SUCH IS FAME.

The rumoured death of John L. Sullivan, the American bruiser, recalls a confusion made by the telegraphists who recently called a Home Rule speech as his which was really delivered by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M. P. These geniuses of the wire ran away with the idea that there could be only one great Sullivan, and that he was a pugilist, not a poet, a politician, and a member of Parliament. This puts us in mind of another anecdote of the period when A. M. Sullivan was travelling on a lecturing tour in California. One evening he arrived at San Francisco and a mob of hoodlums with bands and banners gathered in front of his hotel and had him out for a speech. The genial and oratorical A. M. came out and addressed the crowd. He was gloriously welcomed at first, cheered to the echo. "He's a talker," said one. "I never reckoned he was such a big bug on the speaking-making." "Oh yes," asserted another; "but you should see him scrap. He can take down any coon on the Pacific slope with his right." "I thought he was a bigger fellow," said a third. "He is rather pale, but he ain't in condition now." "Bravo John! Enough of the chin music, sonny. We want to see you set to!" They had taken the brilliant A. M. Sullivan for the non-temperance bully and bullgadocio, J. L. Sullivan. —London (Eng.) Universe.

REGINA NOTES.

—Since last writing our community has been called upon to mourn the loss of Mary, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Bennett, whose sudden death occurred on the 14th inst.

Though in delicate health for a year past the dear child according to the best medical advice was on the road to recovery until within a few short hours of her happy release.

—A fine, new church has just been completed at St. Peter's in the large German settlement south east of here and last week they celebrated the event by processions extending through rogation days in which several hundred people took part. This church will be dedicated by Father Sinnott on Corpus Christi. At Balgonie on Ascension day Father Sinnott conducted services for a very large congregation. Next Tuesday he leaves for the Long Lake district where several Catholics families are located.

Last Sunday the choir was composed entirely of German voices without organ accompaniment and though lacking opportunities for culture and practice devotion furnished a very pleasing substitute.

—Miss Polly O'Farrell grand-daughter of Mrs. McCarthy left for the East on the 24th inst. called to the bedside of her mother who is seriously ill. Her many friends made during a five years residence here regret the cause of her departure and hope her filial duties will allow of her return.

—Mr. D. Smith public works inspector spent some days of last week at the capital and whilst here at the request of the council examined and reported on the exhibition buildings with the result that a good deal of the work already performed will have to be improved upon before it will be considered as fulfilling specification requirements.

—The best rain of 2 years or more fell all through this district on the 24th and at this writing the clouds give evidence of another downpour. But slight if any damage has been done to grain crops through late unprecedented frosts and prospects for a grand harvest near by exhibition time are glowing.

—Politicians are quiet and save an occasional red rag shaken before the drowsy local press is taking a holiday.