

asking him, as a personal favor to the King, to elevate the illustrious bearer to the Cardinalate. Leaving Brussels, he did not return immediately to Rome, but made a tour in Europe to recruit his wasted strength. Meanwhile events had transpired in Perugia that suggested to the Holy Father the appointment of Monseigneur Pecci to that See. He bowed to the will of the Pope, and on his return entered his bishopric. This was in 1846, the last year of Gregory's reign. In Perugia he encouraged study amongst the clergy, founded a Theological Seminary under the patronage of the great Doctor of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, and held frequent synods, at which he presided in person, to stimulate his disciples in the pursuit of ecclesiastical science and virtues. Pius IX created him Cardinal in the Consistory of Dec. 19, 1853. In a newspaper sketch of his life, widely published of late, it is stated that Gregory XVI, before his death, had created him Cardinal *in petto*, but that through the jealous influence of Antonelli over Pius IX, the publication was not made until 1853. This is absurdly false. Had Gioachino Pecci been created Cardinal *in petto* by Gregory, Pius would not have held the publication back. If urged by Antonelli to do this wrong he would have repelled it, as he did other advances against Truth, Right and Justice with the motto of his whole life—*Non possumus!* But that Antonelli did not, through jealousy or any other motive, influence Pius IX in this matter, is evident from the fact that he had no influence whatever with him until he became one of his Council, as Prime Minister in 1848, and the new Pope had already held several Consistories, and bestowed several hats of his own will. During the revolution, Cardinal Pecci experienced many trials. His Theological Seminary was seized by the minions of Victor Emmanuel and confiscated to the State. He bore this and other injuries with dignity and resignation. Gathering the students into his own house, he continued their instruction under difficulties, and with sacrifices, but with success. We have the authority of the London *Times* for it, that he always refused to hold personal intercourse with the officials of the Government of "United

Italy." This, we suppose, is why he was hailed as a *Liberal Pope* upon his accession to the Chair vacated by Pius IX. There is another little story going the rounds, "that on the death of Cardinal Barnabo, Prefect of the Propaganda, in 1874, many of Cardinal Pecci's friends and admirers desired to see him advanced to that important position in the administration of the Church. But some influence—(probably that terrible Antonelli again?)—operated against him. His name having been mentioned one day to the late Pope, in connection with the office, by an English Bishop, who was his friend, and admired his ability, piety and learning, the Pope answered good humoredly: 'Yes, as you say, he is an excellent Bishop; let him continue in discharge of his diocese.' " This is a nice bit of anecdote, and suggestive of many things, and we shall believe it when the "English Bishop" aforesaid shall have vouched for its accuracy. Last year, in September, Cardinal Pecci was appointed *Camerlengo* or Chamberlain of the Sacred College, a position requiring his permanent residence in Rome. In virtue of this office, he became, on the death of Pius IX, head of the Sacred College, and one of the three Cardinals forming the executive (*interregnum*) of the Government of the Church, and was honored with the attributes of a *quasi* sovereign.

This being a brief, is necessarily an imperfect, outline of the life of Gioachino Pecci, who, as Leo XIII, was crowned, *privately*, because a *prisoner*, in the Sistine Chapel, on Sunday, March 3. The name he has assumed, *Leo*, or *lion*, signifies strength, courage and energy, and the Church, indeed the world at large, calls for a Sovereign Pontiff endowed with these qualities. The enemies of God, of Revelation, of Religion, are the enemies of Society, of the State, of authority in any form, monarchical or republican. But the Church must fight them *alone*, and God grant that Leo, her Head, may be a *lion* indeed, in character as in name!

Of his predecessors in the Papacy bearing the same name, five were so remarkable for holiness of character as to merit to be inscribed in the Calendar of Saints, one had bestowed upon him the title of *Great*, and it was the lot of