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OUR HOLY FATHER

Pope Leo XIII is Dead.—His Death Casts Gloom Over the Entire Catholic World. In Every Quarter of the Globe is Sympathy Shown.

His Holiness Leo XIII, (Vincent Joachim) (Gioacchino) Pecci, Bishop of Perugia; born in Carpineto, Velletri, March 2nd, 1810; created Pope February 20th, 1878, died at 4.04 p.m., on Monday July 20th, 1903. He was the 258th Supreme Pontiff, who, since the ascension of Our Lord, exercised the infallible teaching authority and primacy first vested in Peter the chief of the Apostolic College.

To say that the death of Leo XIII has cast a gloom over the entire Catholic world, is but a feeble expression of the sorrow of all the members of the Catholic and Roman church at the blow which Divine Providence has just inflicted

on them. We cannot say that it came on us unexpectedly, but loving children will cling to a loved Father and hope even against all hopes. So we had looked in fervent prayers to the prolongation of a life so dear and so precious to the Catholic World. God has ordained differently. His Holy Will be done! Whilst the remains of Leo XIII, shall go to rest, the memory of the great and illustrious Pontiff shall be and shall remain deeply engraven in the hearts of all his afflicted children.

It would be a consolation for us at this sad hour to recall the glorious qualities and noble virtues of the departed Pontiff, but we are

pleased to think that we could hardly offer our readers a more beautiful tribute of respect and admiration than the one so universally paid him by all who followed him through the varied events in his long and difficult career.

In an elaborate sketch of the life of His late Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, the Free Press has the following remarkable appreciation: "He was a great man among the great men of his day. He played a part amid some of the most tremendous dramas of history, and he played it successfully. With no force of arms, he made men who ordered armies to obey him; out of enemies he created friends: a church which

which he found the prey of all, he left, strong in the circle of her defenders. Leo XIII will go down in history as one of the greatest among the long line of great men who have filled the Papal chair."

"Personally the late pontiff was tall and slender, and his hair was snow white. His face had the kindest of expressions, and his smile was ready when anything amusing was said. His keen wit was tempered by a charitable wish not to wound the feelings of others. His manner was high bred and finished, and he possessed a most charming courtesy, which placed all who saw him at their ease. He loved to chat on literary topics,



—1878—

—1903—

and to the last found pleasure in reading the great authors of antiquity. His experience of life was so vast, that his remarks were full of a quiet wisdom. He impressed every one who met him. His personal habits were simple to a degree, for he lived the life of an ascetic. His industry and power for work were extraordinary, and the labor he daily went through while pope, was enough to exhaust a much younger and stronger man."

Worthy of our gratitude, as the above may be, we consider it in no way superior to the tribute of honor paid the deceased Pontiff by British and Continental papers, as appears by the following:

London, July 21.—Long biographical sketches, memoirs and editorials are called forth by the death of the Pope, and the English papers all teem with expressions of the warmest sympathy and deep regard on account of his simple, saintly life, and admiration for the statesmanlike qualities displayed by him throughout his pontificate.

A contrast is drawn between the unique position the papacy now holds in international consideration compared with its shattered, discredited position at the time of the death of Pius IX. His victory over Bismarck is everywhere recalled as the most brilliant example of diplomatic sagacity, and the editorials dilate upon the successful manner in which he reconciled himself to the spirit of modern times in his dealing with France, America and England.

The Morning Post says: "The keys of St. Peter's that death snatched from him are now the symbols of a world wide monarchy, such as even Islam itself, with its countless millions of devotees, cannot boast."

The Daily News says: "History will not soon forget that little, frail, white figure, who occupied the most striking position in the civilized world. Leo XIII will be remembered as one of the greatest of the popes and the humblest of Christians."

The Daily Telegram says: "The Catholic world mourns the loss of one of the noblest priests, the most accomplished of scholars, and the wisest statesman who has ever filled St. Peter's chair."

Austrian Emperor's Tribute.

Vienna, July 21.—Emperor Francis Joseph has telegraphed from Ischl to Cardinal Taliani, the papal nuncio, at Vienna as follows: "At the moment when the Catholic world is plunged into the deepest grief at the news of the death of the supreme shepherd, my heart urges me to express to your eminence all the pain which this cruel loss, so deeply felt in the whole world has caused me. The filial loss and unlimited veneration which during his lifetime I felt for the Holy Father, follow into eternity the exalted deceased, whose memory is blessed for all time, and who will ever occupy a distinguished place in the annals of our holy church."

Paris, July 21.—The Figaro this morning, in its article on pope

Leo, describes him as one of the greatest of the political popes. It says: "Pope Leo leaves the Roman Catholic Church stronger, more alert and more closely allied with the life of the people than it was under any predecessor during the past century."

The Journal also emphasises the late popes political ability, saying: "The church still needs diplomatists. May Pope Leo's successor be another Leo."

The Gaulois, which is published with a mourning border, contains an article by Ferdinand Brumetiere, who declares that Pope Leo's eternal honor before history will be that he realized that the church's action must be social and that democracy has need of the church."

The Matin says the pontiff's reign was not sullied by a single word of hatred or threatening gesture.

The Eclair and the Petit Journal both dwell especially on the efforts of Pope Leo to maintain