

## World's Greatest Figure.

### Pope Pius a Simple Man of very Quiet Dignity, Modest and Meek to all Classes.

The dominant figure in all the world is now Pope Pius X., rousing the admiration of two continents through his defiance of the powerful French Republic in upholding the rights of the Church, says a Rome correspondent of the Boston Transcript.

If one knew nothing of the man his imagination would immediately conceive a colossal figure to do and dare, whilst what is the reality? A simple man of quiet dignity, modest and meek, who thinks of others before himself, and whose motto is "Restore all things in Christ." There was only one circumstance which could arouse so saint-like a character—an attack on the Church—and once aroused, Europe and America have seen to what heights he can rise.

### EXPRESSIONS OF LOYALTY AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY FROM AMERICA.

It would, however, be totally wrong to suppose that Pope Pius X. does not suffer under circumstances so abnormal. The day after Monsignor Montagnini's expulsion from France I had occasion to approach one of the intimates of the Pontiff, who said, with tears in his eyes, "I have never in my life seen such impersonal anguish. For Pope Pius X. to defy France is exactly like a father bitterly differing with his family. He thinks of nothing else, and speaks of nothing else, and, being human, he cannot look ahead sufficiently not to feel anxiety for the Church. He is resigned because it is God's will, but he cannot help being preoccupied. He has, however, many consolations, one being the expressions of loyalty and encouragement coming to him from all over the world, especially from America. One prelate not far from Boston telegraphed: "Holy Father, we are with you to a man, depend upon us both morally and financially."

All who would follow the politics of the Church are acquainted with the public life of the Pontiff, while few really know him in private. There has not been so much charity dispensed in the Vatican for years as now. One of the greatest joys of the Pope's new position is that he has the wherewithal for his charities. As Patriarch of Venice his pleasure was sometimes denied him, as his purse was not bottomless; but at the Vatican much goes to the poor.

### GENEROSITY TO THE POOR.

The Club of St. Peter maintains Rome seven or eight so-called "kitchens" where the poverty-stricken for a nominal sum can get a hearty meal. The club, finding itself on the point of a breakdown, decided to appeal to Pius X., asking only a small amount. The Pontiff asked how much was needed by the club, and replied being \$800, whereupon he promptly sent \$1000, with the instruction that it might expect more during the winter was out.

### The Church Cough.

Why do so many persons cough in church who do not cough elsewhere? The churches are neglected in matters of ventilation. The only way they get in the periodical opening of the door when people enter. In the air allowed to sweep inside. Closed the greater part of the week, the large congregation Sunday adds to the vitiated condition of the atmosphere. At a late hour, with several hundred persons present, a breeze sweeping through the windows, and the epidemic disease, as soon as the windows

which must have taxed the Papal exchequer, but when the eruption of Vesuvius came, only a few months later, he again opened his hand and heart, saying in these precise words, "I will be without food myself, before these poor souls shall go hungry."

It is wonderful how much Rome occupies herself with Pius X and his doings, although she declared herself absolutely indifferent to all things Papal. That she is not, however, is proven by the interest which was taken in a dispute begun in the late Pontificate, the end of which is a magnificent illustration of Pius X's generosity.

### MAGNANIMITY OF POPE PIUS.

A certain Neapolitan priest, dying, left his money to Leo XIII, who accepted it. The relatives went to law to dispute the will, but the courts upheld the Pope. Leo XIII meanwhile died, and the case remained suspended. The new Pope had to be asked for a power of attorney to act for him, but the relatives of the deceased priest petitioned Pius X., who having their financial condition investigated and finding them numerous and needy, straightaway renounced the whole hereditage, absolutely in their favor, with the intimation, however, that a donation to the poor fund would not be refused. Strangely enough, so far, the recipients of the papal generosity have not seen fit to respond to the gentle hint.

The routine of the daily life of the Pontiff is of the calmest. Even in these days of stress the only difference on the surface is a little less sleep, longer hours of application to the business in hand, more and longer periods of prayer, and less meditation and study.

### A BUSY DAY AND PLAIN FOOD.

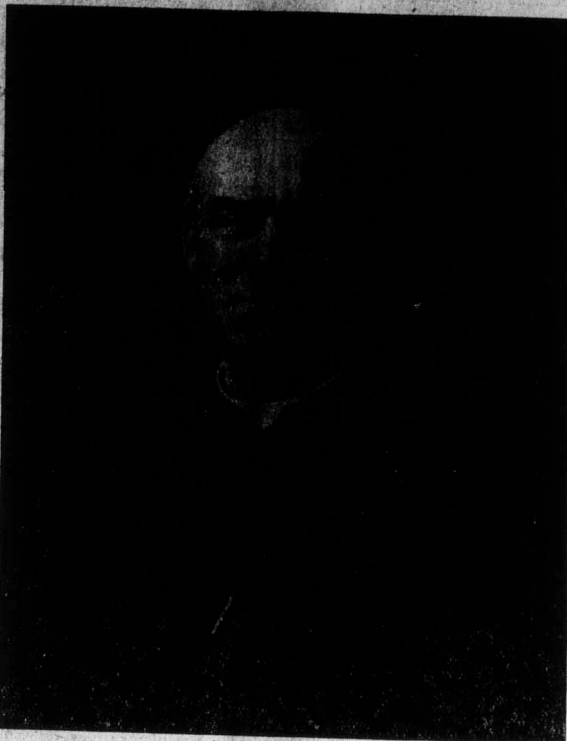
He rises very early, says Mass, and then partakes of a cup of coffee and milk, with the yolk of an egg and a bread roll. He then shuts himself up for state affairs, then there are perhaps two or three audiences, after which he dines alone. The dinner consists of soup, fish, roast with a vegetable, perhaps a sweet and some fruit with wine very abstemiously taken, and a cup of strong black coffee. After this comes a short nap, a visit to the garden on foot, if the season permits, an hour or two of reading, a few more audiences, followed by a frugal supper of bouillon, one course of meat and fruit, and the usual wine and black coffee. The evening is passed in conversation with his familiars, in which laughter is not wanting, sometimes a game of chess, and then bed. It cannot be said that it is all very different from his life in Venice, it lacks just one other element—freedom.

Pius X's health has been much spoken of lately as being very precarious. This I believe to be erroneous. He is subject to gout which sometimes becomes very acute but otherwise his health is so good that the late Dr. Lippont's last prediction was that his days would outnumber those of his predecessor, who attained the age of ninety-four. Oberfulness, calmness and frugality must have their influence, and they are his daily food.

were opened. But, there is another menace! Unless the floors of the church are mopped, the dust becomes a great enemy. This evil is even more serious in school rooms, particularly in such where the children sweep after school.

Why is not floor oil used? Two applications per year in church and school will keep the dust almost completely under control. No one will deny that the dust in school rooms is a great danger to the children.

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Rev. William O'Meara, P. P.

### Named Honorary Canon of Cathedral by Archbishop Bruchesi. Celebrations in Honor of Pastor of St. Gabriel's.

In recognition of his great services to the Church in the city of Montreal generally, and as parish priest of St. Gabriel's parish, Point St. Charles, in particular, the Rev. William O'Meara, P.P., has been named by Archbishop Bruchesi an honorary canon of the Cathedral. Father O'Meara's friends among all classes of the city will be greatly pleased to hear of the honor conferred upon him.

On Sunday evening a demonstration will take place in St. Gabriel's

Church in celebration of the honor conferred on the pastor. A reunion of the catechism classes from 1890 to 1907 will take place. In addition to the regular catechism pupils of the last 17 years there will be about a hundred and fifty converts who have been received into the church during the same period.

On Monday evening a concert will be given in St. Gabriel's Hall, while on Tuesday evening there will be another concert for the parishioners generally.

### The Lull Before a Storm.

Competent Observer in France States that Socialism is at Bottom of All Church Persecution.

Ernest Aroni has been sent by the New York Mail and Express to investigate conditions in France. His views are credited with impartiality. In the course of a recent article he says, in part:

"This country is to-day the scene of the most tremendous conflict in recent world history. Socialism is reaching a development and a strength here that it never has attained in Germany, Belgium or any other of its strongholds.

"The struggle of the State and the Church here is of importance because it is the first of the century's great battles. But the American who thinks it is merely a battle between atheism and Christianity is almost as far wrong as the one who considers it a laudable attempt by a republic to bring about real religious liberty and freedom of thought and action in all that pertains to spiritual and material affairs.

"But the conviction is fairly forced upon one conversant with the progress of the Marxian doctrines in other countries that the center of the collectivist battle line is massed in France to-day, and that the religious policy of the government is only one phase of the strategy that is bent upon the destruction of capitalism—under which title the socialists group all existing institutions of government, property and individuality in the civilized countries of to-day.

"It is the pause in a wrestling match, when both athletes are motionless, one seeming to rest contentedly on hands and knees while the other crouches over him, exerting no apparent pressure with his arms gripped around throat and shoulder.

"But in reality every muscle is strained, and any moment may see a shift of posture and a whirling test of strength.

"As for the holdings of all other property save church buildings, the confiscation is complete. Here also, at least in Paris, admiration is compelled for the tact of the Clemenceau government. To degrade by utterly unworthy uses edifices sacred to all Christians in the country would have been a gross blunder. The system may be outlined in citing a few instances.

"The old official residence of Cardinal Richard is transformed into a minister's palace for M. Viviani. The famous old seminary of St. Sulpice is being turned into a second Luxembourg—a museum for the works of living artists.

"Rents for confiscated property are being adjusted with such skillful, seeming fairness that it is likely that not a single priest connected with the central parishes of the Madeleine and St. Roch will be able to live within the boundaries of his parish. But in all these and all similar actions, save the ineffective recognition of Vilatte, tactful refraining from extreme affront is the watchword of the government.

"Meanwhile a power is growing daily which may dwarf all other forces now working in France. The 'Compagnie Generale du Travail' is attaining a strength never previously dreamed of by a national labor organization.

"It put out the lights of Paris in one night. It threatens openly to deprive every city in France of food on any day which it may select, and announces that no warning will be given. Its chiefs have already constituted themselves 'the commission of the general strike.'

"It is fighting bitterly a proposed law which restricts all unions of government employes to form a federation except among themselves. The bureaucracy rules this ultra-cen-

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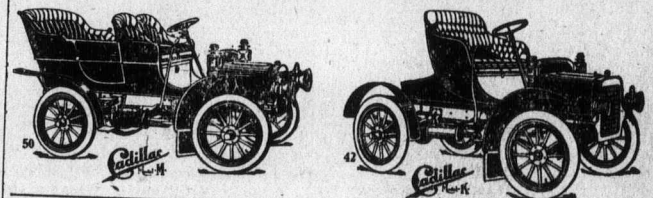
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tralized nation to-day. Let the federation of government employes with the non-governmental workmen be accomplished and there will be but one power in the country.

"But for the moment it is a time of waiting. People are waiting until April 11 for the trial of Abbe Jouin on a charge of what amounts to treason, which nobody takes seriously, because it may cause the production of the papers seized at the nunciature.

"They are waiting for the report of the special committee selected to put forward these papers in case they are not produced at the trial; they are waiting for May 1, to see how great a demonstration the socialists and unionists will make; they are waiting for a vote on the foredoomed income tax; they are waiting for a change in the tactics of passive resistance by the Church and sullen silence by the State.

"It is a period of lull. But it is the lull before a great storm."

### Pope Pius' Interest in Catholic Press.

With the hard-headed sagacity which is one of his prominent characteristics, Pope Pius X. never misses an opportunity to show his high appreciation of the importance of the work performed by Catholic journalists and to encourage them in its diligent performance. Not long ago he said: "My predecessors blessed the swords of Catholic warriors; I bless the pens of Catholic journalists." One of the questions when

he invariably puts to the bishops who visit him is said to have reference to the condition of the Catholic press in their dioceses. His latest manifestation of the deep interest which he takes in the cause of Catholic journalism is an autograph letter which he has sent for publication in a special edition of La Croce, of Naples, and which reads: "In face of the unrestrained license of the anti-Catholic press, which impugns or denies the eternal laws of truth and justice, which stirs up hatred against the Church, which insinuates into the hearts of the people the most pernicious doctrines, corrupting the mind, fostering evil appetites, flattering the senses and perverting the heart, all ought to recognize the great importance of the union of all good people in turning to the advantage of the Church and of society a weapon which the enemy is using for the injury of both. We have therefore only the highest praise for Catholic writers who strive to oppose the antidote of the good press, and that they may not lose courage amid the labors, trials and difficulties inseparable from all good works we bestow upon all of them our blessing, that the Lord may support them in the good fight and pour out on them an abundance of heavenly assistance."

Father Judge, editor of the New World, of Chicago, has passed his examination in Rome for the Doctorate of Theology, and has been publicly praised by the examiners for the brilliancy of his answers.