

## CHAPTER XXXVI

### PIUS X., THE NEW SOVEREIGN PONTIFF

ON TUESDAY morning, August 4, 1903, a message was sent from the conclave of Cardinals assembled at Rome, saying that a successor to the late Leo XIII. had been elected. Cardinal Joseph Sarto, Patriarch of Venice, was the honored one. It was soon announced that the new Pontiff had chosen the title of Pius X. A great cry of joy and relief burst forth from every heart throughout Christendom.

The Cardinals met in conclave on Friday, July 31, nine days after the death of Leo XIII. They remained in session four days and balloted seven times.

When the final count showed that the necessary two-thirds of the total number of votes cast had been obtained, Cardinal Sarto was asked: "Do you accept the election?" He gave a reply in the affirmative. When asked what name he chose he replied: "Pius."

All the throne canopies were then lowered, with the exception of that of the successful candidate.

Then Prince Chigi, the master of the conclave, drew up the official act of the election and acceptance of the newly elected Pope, who retired into a small room near the altar, where he vested in the white robes of his office.

#### TAKES WHITE CAP, GIVES RED ONE

The new Pope was attired all in white with the exception of red shoes, which was quite regular, but he did not stop to remove the red Cardinal's stockings for the white Papal ones. The secretary of the conclave, Mgr. Merry del Val, kneeling, offered him the Papal white cap, amidst breathless silence. He did