meeting with a playmate. Except Charles and the good Father who brought her Our Blessed Lord every Friday morning, there was no one like the 'little nurses who would on earth just like the poor shoeclimb the long stairs to look after a bothersome old woman.' But of course when one of these was a dear Catholic she loved her all the better: for she could understand-oh, so many things; why, for instance, one could not be lonesome when one had le bon Dieu; and why Charles should not murmur because he had a sick wife instead of a well one.

Before I left I knew the short and simple annals of her life. Forty years previously they had been marcome to America. Charles was a ask them to lend assistance here: little mouths to feed. They did not and a bouquet of flowers between back to France. It was lonesome in carfare for this weekly offering of the new land without sons and daughters; and when they were old Madame had on a fresh dress, with it were better to be among relatives and friends. But Charles said that decide the matter for them, so they worked and lived happily from day to day, until almost before they knew it they had been twenty years in America.

One night Charles counted up while she knit by his side, also look. ing at the coals; and they both knew they were seeing a little white cottage set in a green field, near the village where they were born. Then Charles said: 'It is great work to keep the house white and clean in this big, smoky city.' And she answered: 'A shoemaker's bench is a hard seat when a man is no longer young, but there is always a living for him in the land.' Then they both knew they wanted to go home; Charles said: 'In two more years, my dear, we shall have enough to buy that green field and cottage and something left.' And they both felt young again. But it was not to be. She fell ill; when the sickness passed, it left her helpless. Le Bon Dieu had decided, as Charles had

When I asked her how she stood the cruel disappointment, there was something like reproof in her beautiful face as she said: 'Surely Mademoiselle knows God's will could not be cruel or bring disappointment.' Then she went on: Charles, manlike, would not have it so. He took all their savings and went to a great physician, and said all would be his if he would only of the spirit. cure his wife. The physician came to see her; but he only shook his head, and told Charles to take care on his face stopped my words. of his money; for he would need it before she left the chair for the coffin. Ah, poor Charles! His faith le bon Dieu far beyond me, and I was not strong enough to stand that, and he was in danger of turning away from le hon Dieu; and then indeed Madame was in distress. And she prayed all the day, and got the soul of Charles. Ah, He is indeed silence. the good God!

and went away. In a hour he was might be a green field in heaven, back, and his face was no longer solemn; and he knelt by the bed and Dieu was keeping for us. If it were r that he had repented of his great sin, and had been to Mass and time making it ready against my communion. And in that moment she felt as happy as if a little child had been given to her; for she knew she

"I had been visiting her nearly a week before I met Charles. Their perfect union gave them a resem-blance that was marked, and the same great joy radiated from his chiseled face. His gratitude to me was deep, and the inherent chivalry of his race was evinced in speech and manner. But when his excitement subsided, I read signs on his face that sent a host of fear to my mind. The strain on him was too great. If he were to break under it!
And in imagination I saw the pair, who showed forth the oneness which the sacrament of marriage has the power to produce, separated by the hands of a miscalled charity; and a sorrow, which neither misfortune nor poverty could fasten on them, companioning their last days.

"I asked him why he did not live nearer to his work, or at least on a lower floor; and he bade me look out of the-window. Over the roofs and chimney stacks, I saw, far away, the crest of a hill, showing like an emerald in a rusty setting. Madame had told me of that green field in sunny France? As she sat there all day, that distant hill was a pleasant object to look on. Perhaps she beguiled many an hour by fancying it was indeed that green field, and he and she were living there in the remembered white cottage. Then a color like the heart of a seashell came into Madame's face, and she made a feeble attempt to shake a finger at the boy telling tales out of and the stairs, so Madame could down to say the prayers for the dewith soul-harrowing tales of the ing a little chat with the gardener have her green fields. Besides, he parted. did not walk the long way without a stop, since he passed the church; and he took ten minutes' rest morning and evening, while he visited there the flowers we loved in our act, but rather a mo le bon Dieu. Very little time, was it beautiful France. I left the rooms pleasing her child. le bon Dieu. Very little time, was it not, to give out of the long day to the good God? But He understood. Work. I have time now to go to life work. I have time now to go to which had always characterized him leave time now to go to life which had always characterized him leave time now to go to leave the day is no more tempting, from an epicure's point of view, than He knew how Madame must sit all Mass every morning and receive our was continued when, as the Vicar of the other two. The Pope spends

day by herself, and did not mind dear Lord; then, in the evening, that poor old Charles could not stop longer to pay his respects. Ah, was Ah, Mademoiselle, if people only it not comforting to know that the knew how sweet it is to commune dear Lord understood, having lived

" I think they found a human com fort in my understanding and sympathy; for before I left, he told me the carking care of his poor heart, which I knew was fluttering in his breast like a bird in death struggle. It was that there was no one to receive M. le Cure properly when he came on Friday morning with the Blessed Body of Christ for Madame. Every one in the tenement was Protestant; and, though all were ried in their beloved France, and had such good neighbors, he could not shoemaker, and he had secured and so there was no one to light the work immediately, and they had candles and open the door for the done well. Every year their savings divine Guest. I shall not soon forgrew; for le bon Dieu had seen fit get the joy of both when I promised not to send them any children, and that the next Friday morning I of course they did not have all the would be in attendance. I found the expenses of their neighbors who had table covered with a snowy cloth, know if, when the savings were the two wax candles. I learned large enough, Charles should open a afterward that Charles took the long of his own, or they would go walk to work and back, to save the flowers for the Eucharistic her white kerchief and looked ethereal, with the morning

light falling upon her in her chair. We have some saints still on nurse," said the priest, as, earth. the rite over, I accompanied him to 'One of them sits all day in that chair. I have been coming here now for many years, and I their savings and afterward he sat law watched her grow in saintli-looking into the fire for a long time; ness. But, you see, the leaves are ness. But, you see, the leaves are

about ready to fall.' His voice shaded off into sadness I knew he would be lonely on that Friday morning which would not send him to the sunny room in the big tenement house. I grew pressed, too, because of Charles; then I remembered his face after he would climb the stairs, and knew the separation would not be for long. A few weeks later I was transferred to another part of the city. My successor was a Southern girl, and I gave her my French patients without any fears. As she was a devout Episcopalian, I felt I could ask her to visit Madame early on Friday mornings, and render such assistance as was fitting; which she very willingly promised to do. A month told me that Madame was dead and Charles had moved away.

One evening about three months ago, as I was hurrying home I heard saw Charles coming after me. Mademoiselle, how glad I am!' he cried, removing his hat and bowing face. It was not that he was thinner or whiter, but there was a transparency upon it, as if the flesh were wearing away under the glowing life

I heard of your great sorrow,' I was beginning, when an expression

'Mademoiselle means our separa tion, he corrected. Madame loved could not know sorrow since she is with the One she loved best. Do you remember the green hill, Mademoiselle? She left me on a Sunday. God was good to let it be on a day good Father to pray, that such when I was home. She had been blindness should not fall upon the looking at it for a long time, in Then she made as if to take my hand (she was weak-oh, so very "One Sunday morning Charles got up early, put on his best clothes, with a white cottage, which le bon so, she said, she would spend her long time for the recognition of his but a word that will cling to the coming; and she asked me what I should do until then. I told her l would work the same as usual durhad rescued the soul of her husband. ing the day, and the early morning and evening I would spend in church. She said that was right; that then we should not be far apart, since we should both be with le bon Dieu. Then she spoke of you, Mademoiselle, and said to give you the little silver cross attached to her Rosary, and tell you she always prayed for you. I have carried it ever since; for I knew sometime I should meet you.

"He took the cross, wrapped in tissue paper, from his pocket; and as he gave it to me he said it had been a present to Madame from the old cure who had baptized them both. I felt as if I were receiving the relic of a saint.

" 'She did not talk again for a while, he continued; then she asked that we recite the Rosary together once more. When it was finished I saw she was getting weaker. when she saw Madame, she said I had better get the priest. One of the neighbors went for him, and he came right away. Madame knew her hour livitation to his visitor to remain for invitation to his visitor to remain for dinner, if he could amuse himself in the interval.

It was only with the poor that he livitation. Those who have walked through the Vatican walked through the Vatican Then the little nurse came in; and and I knew she would be happy if it were not for the thought of me. I whispered to her to mind no more about me, only not to forget me in her new home. She whispered back that could not be, for God had made us one. Then she looked at the priest and at the little nurse; then at me, and said good-by. After that, she turned her face from us toward she turned her face from us toward means small for insignificant. But the short space of forty-five minutes the green field. The next thing I knew the nurse was closing her his hand, and the Marchioness, his

"'I buried her in a pretty spot,

with God, men and women and even little children would spend more of their free time in His Presence. Did Mademoiselle know the little Protestant nurse had become a Catholic? She said it was Madame's faith and perfect trust which brought her into the great Light. The good priest told me the other day that she has entered the convent."
"I asked him about his health

sometimes . . . Do you remem ber reading in yesterday's paper at an unknown man being found dead in the Cathedral after the 6 o'clock Mass? It was Charles. Out of the silence that followed,

I have ordered a carriage for us to attend the funeral of this French nobleman tomorrow."-Anna C. Minogue in the Ave Maria.

### THE PERSONALITY OF THE POPE

Roman Correspondent of Rosary Magazine

As the central figure of the Chris world the personality of Holy Father Benedict XV. could not hope to escape the closest scrutiny The world even now has hardly recovered from the surprise occa sioned by his selection for the august chair of St. Peter. When the holy Pius X laid down his life as a peace offering for Europe, there were trained diplomats, skilled in the art of reading the political future, who picked out probable candidates for the pontifical office. Cardinals whose years of service were long and whose achievements were notable were heralded as likely successors to Pius No one thought of the frail, retiring, Archbishop of Bologna, whose admittance to the Sacred College dated back only six months. No one dreamed that a Pope would be chosen from amongst the most recently created Cardinals. But if ever the Italian adage, "Who enters the Conclave as Pope comes out as cardinal," was borne out in a most striking manner, it was surely in the last Papal election which Benedict XV. upon the Fisherman's

Very few people at large knew much if anything at all, beyond his name, Cardinal della Chiesa. Even among ecclesiastics few had intimate knowledge of him. It was Rome, after his ordination to the priesthood, had not been by any means distinguished by tenure of The positions which he held in the Roman Curia were very inferior positions. The diplomatic posts which he filled abroad were not of the first importance. every one who had any knowledge of Monsignor della Chiesa knew that he was was first and always and everywhere a man of hard work. His days as a young priest in the employ of the Curia were filled with the most almost literally chained to his desk. It was probably his devotion to his work, and also his far-reaching vision that drew upon him the attention of the late Cardinal Rampolla, whose pupil diplomatist, he could not but gather hints and suggestions of a practical kind which, being put to use, developed to the highest point of efficiency

the native acumen of his mind. Monsignor della Chiesa was some years ago appointed to the Archwithout much noise or demonstration. He simply took hold of the rudder which obedience had placed however, that he actually had taken diocese. Early and late, as Arch-bishop of Bologna, he was at his and angle of the questions that came mingled much with his clergy, being name as any botanist might they had to state their business clearly and distinctly and in as few words unrestricted communion with nature possible. Then the Archbishop would retire to his study, with a kind

else. Most of all, he forgot his own notice a very marked improvement interests, for it is a matter of history poverty that was calling so loudly for before being driven back to the relief. Her large bequest to the poor palace. and I had money enough to put up a little stone for us; and I planted the pontificate was not an isolated up either with private audiences or act, but rather a mother's way of best | business of State until dinner is

Christ, he took possession of the less than one dollar per day for his took to search the prison camps of largest, most splendid palace in the whole world. Benedict XV. literally lives in three small roomsstudy, with about six plain chairs and a large wooden desk, a bedroom, with a simple couch, and an unos tentatious living room. And his life was as simple as his surroundings. He is always up at 5 o'clock in order to make his preparation for Mass One of his private chamberlains generally says a Mass which he attends. Then the Holy Father himself ascends the altar and in a dignified, and he said he was as well as usual, though brisk, manner offers up the but that his heart bothered him Holy Sacrifice. After his thanksgiving, he generally takes one cup of black coffee and a small piece of bread. Almost immediately enters his study, where he is surrounded by four secretaries whom he keeps busily engaged until noon There is no hurry or cyclonic haste anywhere. The Pope assigns tasks to each of his secretaries and follows closely their every move. He is reputed to share with St. Thomas Aguinas the very unusual faculty of being able to dictate to four secretaries simultaneously. His thin, rather shrill voice never loses its even pitch. Each word is clearly enunciated, almost snapped out. The most remarkable thing about the Holy Father is the ease and moderation with which he does the most diverse things. He sees and hears and notes down mentally everything going on around him. Secretaries appear during his hours of labor from the Curia or the Cancellaria with important documents, to each which is pinned a slip of paper giving with almost telegraphic brev ity its contents. With a single glance the Pope takes in every word and deposits the document in its proper place. To a man like this order is a prime requisite. One of the first things he did as Pontiff, they say, was to have an immense desk installed, in his study to afford him room for the separate piles of documents and clippings which he always wishes to have before him. The Italians also say that he never mislays a paper.

It is not to be wondered at that business matters are never delayed at the Vatican under Benedict XV. atically and methodically. Letters are never allowed to go unanswered. The Pope has always had the reputa tion of being a prompt correspondent and a great letter-writer, and he has not given up this habit with his accession to the great responsibilities of the supreme rulership of the Church. He writes a very legible flowing, steady hand. An expert would call it a classic script. characters are all well-formed and boldly written. From his writing, it is apparent that he knows his own mind, and is ready to make it known to his correspondent. He writes with unusual celerity.

After a morning of such arduous labor, the Pontiff, passing through two files of kneeling Christians who have been gathered together from the whole world, wends his way to his midday luncheon. It of the plainest kind, simple exhausting labors. For years he was and substantial. After luncheon he again passes through pilgrims, anxious to get a glimpse of the great Father of Christendom. It is perhaps upon occasions like this we get the best impression of the he became and whose confidences he shared. From his expert, well-tried a private audience with him are all one in saying that in his public audiences he appears at his best, He has ears for every one, and a kind word, especially for the children and the poorer pilgrims. He always says After having waited an unusually the right word, too, brief, no doubt. labors and his services to the Church memory forever. When he has made the rounds, blessing right and left as he goes the Pontiff retires for an bishopric of Bologna. He entered the City of the Hundred Towers Italians and all foreigners in Italy who wish to enjoy good health. After this he descends by an elevator to the Cortile Belvedere where his in his hand. It soon became evident carriage is awaiting him. Behind two spirited black horses he drives possession of his see, for almost in through the fourteen acres of ground the twinkling of an eye he hadmastered which constitute the Vatican Gardens. the thousand and one problems that inevitably arise in an important that It is safe to say that the Pope knows every inch of this garden. From his boyhood he has loved nature. Since those days when by the physician's desk studying for himself every phase orders he was sent into the country to grow strong, he has had a particu up for consideration. Though kind lar love for trees and shrubs and and hospitable to a degree, he never flowers. He knows them all by in this, as in every other respect pre- generally known that, as Archbishop eminently business-like. His doors of Bologna, he slipped away several were always open to the priests. But times each year to the country home of a friend of boyhood days to enjoy Therefore it was without surprise that the world learned that the seemed to forget his business cares. Walked through the Vatican When face to face with misery and Gardens in Pius X's time, and poverty he always forgot everything again in Benedict XV's time, will Of course Italian gardens are never that he was always on the verge of bankruptcy because of his large we find in colder climates. In Italy

served at seven. This last repast of

some trusted friend, walking amongst

It is probably in the evening, when

right to a good night's sleep.

The trepidation with which Benehave been exchanged, thus Society headquarters. Nor has he world the precious privilege of offering up three Masses on All Souls' Day in perpetuity, provided one be offered for the blessed repose of those

slain in this War. But perhaps nothing brings out better the fatherly spirit of the Pon-tiff and the confiding trustfulness of his children than the great work recently undertaken by His Holiness —that of tracing missing soldiers, whose names have not appeared in any casualty list or on the registers of the concentration camps. less and hopeless, thousands women turned to the Holy Father imploring his mediation and help in tracing their loved ones. On the direct initiative of the Holy Father, Monsignor De Schulte, of Paderborn and the now deceased Bishop of Fribourg, Monsignor Boyet under-

he is alone, that the Holy Father have been lost. With the aid of pursues his private reading, which has always been the great passion of than five thousand have been identihis life. That he is an omnivorous, but attentive reader is plain from his with their families. If Pope Beneconversation. He is perfectly at dict XV. had not accomplished anything on such diverse subjects as theology and athletics, diplomacy and literature, sociology and poetry. He has always been famous as a conversationalist. As a young priest, it was his wont to gather in his rooms at night a chosen band of his learned friends, with whom questions of the day and questions of all time were discussed freely. By 11 o'clock when he retires, the Pope has earned every

dict XV. took up his august charge was due, no doubt, in great measure to the awful conflict that was render ing Europe. The War was well under way, and gave promise of continuance when on August 4, 1914. he was called to be the Vicar of the Prince of Peace. He has not been recalcitrant to his mission charge. From the beginning he has tried by every legitimate means, consistent with his neutrality, to bring about a lasting peace; and, failing in this, through the obstinacy of the belligerents, to lessen the horrors of war. If men will not listen to his pleadings for peace, they cannot well close their ears against his humani tarian counsels. To the coming ages after the smoke of war and the dark ness have lifted, the figure of Benedict XV, will stand forth not only as that of one of the greatest of Christ's Vicars, but as the embodiment, or incarnation, of the best humanitarian principles. Through his efforts thou sands of hopelessly maimed and disabled prisoners of all the nations at bringing some slight ray of sunshine into many desolate homes, whilst at the same time easing the hard lot of the wounded soldier. Under his very eyes he has established a hospi tal for the care of the many wounded sent in from the battlefields. From the Vatican emergency supplies go forth in greater volume to wounded than from any Red Cross forgotten the dead, since he has granted to all priests throughout the

Germany for more than forty thousand prisoners of whom all traces like solicitude for countless tortured by uncertainty would entitle him forever to the gratitude of But he has accomplished many other things, and as he is still young in years for a Pope-being only sixtyone years old-his reign promises to be one of the most fruitful and glori-

Diligence is the mother of good fortune.—Cervantes.

All disquiet of heart and distractions of the senses arise from inor-

dinate love and vain fear. The Most High, with His Holy Mother, has to form for Himself great saints, who shall surpass most of the other saints in sanctity as much as the cedars of Libanus grow the little shrubs.-Blessed da Montfort.

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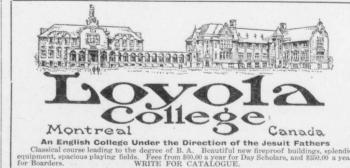
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