



POPE LEO XIII IS DEAD

He Was Believed by Many to be the Greatest Pope in History and Was Universally Regarded as One of the Best Thinkers in the World's History--Some Interesting Facts as to His History, Together with the Details as to the Methods Employed in Choosing a Successor.

Pope Leo XIII. was taken ill July 4. On the evening of that day a number of cardinals were summoned to the vatican. For several days the pope lingered between life and death, showing a most remarkable vitality, and the attention of the world has been fixed upon the proceedings at his bedside. At 4:04 p. m., Monday, July 20, the pope passed away.

For a quarter of a century Pope Leo XIII. has been the head of the Roman Catholic church. He was regarded by many as one of the greatest popes and universally he was understood to be one of the ablest and most conscientious of public men. The enormous demands made upon him by his church were not sufficient to prevent him from participating in an intelligent consideration of the world's proceedings and many were surprised that he had an intimate acquaintance with the merits and the history of all great controversies throughout the world. Among the many descriptions of Pope Leo none is more interesting and instructive than that which appeared in the Louisville Courier-Journal. In this it is said:

"As a scholar, the pope ranked among the first men of his day. In all departments of learning his efficiency was remarkable. As a poet he was recognized to possess genius, and a number of his compositions were of the highest order.

"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 there was anything amusing said. He possessed a keen wit, tempered by his 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 delighted to chat on literary topics and to the last found pleasure in reading the great authors of antiquity. His experience in life had been 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."

Reverting to the history of Pope Leo, the Courier-Journal writer says:

"Joachim Vincent Raphael Lodovico Pecci was born March 2, 1810, at Carpineto. He was sent to the Jesuit college at Viterbo in 1818, where he remained till 1825, when he entered the Collegio Romano, just restored by Pope Leo XII. Two years later he was matriculated as a divinity student at the Gregorian university. In 1832 he won the degree of doctor of theology and entered the College of Noble Ecclesiastics, where those who design to serve the pontifical government diplomatically or administratively are trained. In 1837 he was made subdeacon, then deacon, then priest. In 1838 he was made delegate, or governor, of the province of Benevento. In 1841 he was appointed governor of Spoleto. In 1843 he was made apostolic nuncio, or papal ambassador, to Belgium and titular archbishop of Damietta. In 1845 he was made bishop of Perugia, where he arrived in 1846. In 1854 he was made a cardinal. In 1877 he was appointed camerlingo. In 1878 he was chosen pope to succeed Pius IX., deceased."

The methods of choosing a successor to Leo are described in a most interesting way by the Courier-Journal writer. This writer says:

"The selection of the sovereign pontiff is a most important event, both for the church and the secular world. Catholicism teaches that Christ Himself chose the first pope, St. Peter, but left no record in the scriptures as to how the succeeding popes should be elected. From this it follows that the supreme pontiff, the vicar of Christ, has the power of determining the method of election of his successors. It is a much mooted question whether the pope has the divine right to appoint his own successor or not. However, under the present system he has not. The present method was established by Pope Pius IX.

"Ten days after the death of Pius IX., which occurred on February 7, 1878, Cardinal Pecci was elected pope by the cardinals and took the title of Leo XIII.

"The next conclave will follow the death of Leo XIII., and the tendencies that will dispute for the pre-eminence in that conclave are these: First, either no deviation from the policy of Leo

XIII., a conciliatory one; or, second, a gradual change; third, the assertion of the claim for the restoration of temporal power in Italy, together with a disinclination to sacrifice all else to this one point, as has been done by Leo XIII.

"As an extreme concession the new pope might carry on the contest on legal grounds, encouraging Italian Catholics to take a more active part in political elections. There is some fear in higher Italian Catholic circles that Italy may become a republic.

"It is almost unnecessary to say that the next pope will be an Italian.

"The sacred college of cardinals is composed at present of sixty-seven members, the canonical number being seventy. Twenty-two reside at Rome. Only thirty of the sixty-seven belong to nationalities outside of Italy. As to nationality they stand: Italians, thirty-seven; French, eight; Austro-Hungarians, seven; Spaniards, five; Germans, two; Prussian-Pole, one; Irish, two; English, one; Portuguese, one; Belgian, one; American, one; Australian, one.

"Well informed sources in Rome eliminate all of the thirty-seven Italian cardinals except four and possibly five as impossible for election to the papacy.

"The four cardinals who are considered to be 'papabili' and out of which number it is confidently expected there is one upon whom the papacy will fall, are as follows: Girolamo Gotti, Serafino Vannutelli, Domenico Svampa and Giuseppe Sarto. Cardinal Rampolla, the secretary of state to Pope Leo XIII., is considered by some a possibility. Cardinal Rampolla's position has naturally made him some enemies. His influence in certain quarters, however, is very great and it is not at all unlikely that he will select the candidate and quietly throw all of his strength toward electing him when the conclave meets. Thus he would be retained as secretary of state under the new pope if his candidate succeeded.

"The vatican, the residence of the pope, is one of the most interesting buildings in the world.

"He who is elected pope retires to the vatican, a custom inaugurated by Pius IX. In fact, Pius was living in his palace at the time of the Italian occupation of Rome, in 1870.

"In the course of the day, as it became clear that the capture of the city was imminent, the pope retired to the vatican, never to leave it again. His successor, Leo XIII., who was elected in the vatican, has continued the traditions of Pius IX., and since his election in 1878 has not gone outside of the vatican. This 'imprisonment' is purely voluntary and is meant as a dignified protest against what, from the vatican standpoint, can only be regarded as a usurpation; a seizure by violence of the possessions of the church.

"As a rule, the conclave of cardinals is held in the palace where the late pope has died. On the death of Pius IX., owing to the circumstance of the Italian occupation of Rome, it was proposed and at first even voted to hold the conclave abroad. Malta, Spain, the Tyrol, France and even England, were suggested. None of these countries, however, made any offer or guarantee, and in the second congregation (preliminary of the cardinals to arrange for the conclave) the motion was rescinded by a large majority. It is now clearly understood that the Italian government will undertake to guarantee the orderly procedure of the conclave, so that a proposal to adjourn to a foreign country is not again likely.

"The conclave proper, i. e., the cardinals in their elective capacity, only assemble after the funeral of the deceased pope. This is an elaborate affair, lasting several days—eleven days in the case of Pius IX.—and accompanied with much ceremonial.

"On the death of the pope, the cardinal camerlingo approaches the bedside and taps the deceased three times on the head with a silver mallet, calling him by his Christian name. Thus the present pope would be addressed, not as Leo, but as Gioacchino. Naturally receiving no answer the camerlingo turns to the court and formally announces 'Il Uapa e veramente morto' (the pope is really dead).

"The cardinal vicar then causes placards to be affixed to the doors of the Roman basilicas and churches, announcing the death of the pope and ordering all church bells to be tolled for an hour and solemn obsequies to be celebrated. On the second day the body of the pope is embalmed. The

next day it is vested in full pontificals—red robe, pallium, cloth-of-gold miter, red slippers and white gloves.

"There are various traditional perquisites by which various articles of the dead pope's clothing, bed clothing, etc., go to different members of the vatican household. On the evening of the third day the corpse is carried in procession into St. Peter's, escorted by the clergy of the basilica, the bishops and cardinals, the dignitaries of the vatican, the physicians and others.

"It is placed on a bier sufficiently inclined to permit the face to be seen, and deposited in the chapel of the sacrament, with the tips of the slippers just projecting through the bars of the closed gate, that they may be kissed by the faithful. The body remains here until the day of the funeral, watched day and night by a guard of honor. Meanwhile the 'fisherman's ring' is broken.

"In the Sistine chapel a large catafalque is erected, with an empty coffin, bearing the name and arms of the dead pope. For three successive days a funeral mass is said by a cardinal in the presence of the entire sacred college, while three other cardinals give absolution.

"On the day of the funeral the corpse is blessed and sprinkled with holy water and the cardinals and clergy kiss the feet. The procession then makes the entire circle of the basilica, ending in the choir chapel. Here the body is placed in a coffin and covered with a drapery of red silk, the face with a white silk veil.

"In the coffin are also placed a parchment, sealed up in a metallic tube, and containing the name, age and biography of the dead pope, also three purses, containing the various coins and medals in gold, silver and copper which have been struck during his reign.

"The coffin is then inclosed within two others and, amid the most solemn funeral services, deposited in the temporary tomb, where each dead pope is placed until his permanent tomb is built. Pius IX. was finally buried in the basilica of San Lorenzo.

"All this time the vatican and, in fact, the general direction of church affairs, has been in charge of the cardinal camerlingo. On the day after the funeral the cardinals go into conclave, the bishop of Ostia, as dean of the sacred college, presiding. Each cardinal may take with him his own 'conclavist,' also four doctors, a surgeon and a pharmacist are elected and cooks, barber and other servants appointed.

"The vatican is now definitely closed to the outside world, even food and supplies being passed in through small openings in the wall. Those within swear on the gospels to maintain absolute secrecy as to what takes place. The cardinals draw lots for their quarters in the vatican. A bull of Gregory XV. established that there shall be two ballots a day until a pope is elected. The last conclave was held in the Sistine chapel, where each cardinal had before him a table with writing material and a list of the sacred college.

"On the central table of the 'scrutatori' were two urns, one for the votes, the other for checking off the number of those voting. At the end of each ballot the votes are gathered and burnt with straw. To be elected a candidate must obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

"When a pope is at length elected (the last conclave balloted four times), the other cardinals descend from their seats and make obeisance, in sign that their sovereignty is over.

"The new pope is then taken to an adjoining room, where there are three sets of pontifical vestments, to fit a large, a medium size or a small man. In changing, it is the custom for the new pope to take off his cardinal's hat and place it on the head of the prelate who assists in robing him. Leo XIII. omitted to do this, thus bitterly disappointing Mgr. Lasagni, who had confidently expected to be made a cardinal.

"When the pope has been robed the dean of the cardinal deacon proceeds to a balcony overlooking the square and announces the election to the public: 'Nuntio vobis gaudium magnum. Habemus papam reverendissimum ed eminentissimum cardinalem.' Here follows the name of the cardinal elected and the title he has taken as pope.

"After this announcement it was customary for the new pope to appear on the balcony and give his benediction to the populace. Leo XIII., however, pleaded fatigue, and only later blessed from an interior balcony the people inside St. Peter's."