

# DEATH OF LEO XIII SEALS A RECORD OF SIXTY SIX YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH HE RULED

## HIS NATIVE TOWN THE BIRTHPLACE OF THREE OTHER POPES

The Pontiff's Academical Triumphs Stamp Him as a Scholar at Nineteen.

Zeal Shown as Priest, Bishop and Cardinal Win Him the Triple Crown.

**I**N the little town of Carpineto, perched on a high eminence in the diocese of Anagni, Italy, already famous as the birthplace of four Popes—Innocent III, Gregory IX, Alexander IV and Boniface VIII—Gioacchino Pecci (Leo XIII) was born, March 2, 1810. He was a member of an old and illustrious family of Siena. Toward the middle of the thirteenth century the Pecci family already wielded great power in the country. They soon became so powerful that when Pope Martin V visited Siena he was very comfortably quartered, together with all his court, in the house of the brothers Giovanni and Giacomo Pecci, who further lent him the sum of 15,000 florins.

Before obtaining the high honor of giving a Pope to the church, the Pecci family had already given it three prelates—Giovanni, who became Bishop of Grosseto in 1517; Paolo, Bishop of Malta in 1579, and Giuseppe, Bishop of Grosseto in 1710. Moreover, five members of the late Pope's family belonged to the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Ludovico Pecci, father of Leo XIII, was a colonel in the French service, under Napoleon I. He died in 1833. His wife, the mother of the Pope, was of the Prosperi-Buzi family of Cori, not far from Rome. She died in 1824.

There were four children by this marriage, three sons and one daughter.

1. Giovanni-Battista, born in 1802, died 1881—father of five sons, who are the nephews of Leo XIII.
2. Caterina, born November 4, 1809.
3. Giuseppe, born December 15, 1807.
4. Gioacchino, born March 2, 1810, the late Pontiff.

### In the Days of His Youth.

Carpineto, Gioacchino Pecci's birthplace, is a small town of some 4000 inhabitants, perched on a rocky eminence near Legni and Anagni. In Carpineto is a palace where the Pecci family have reigned for generations and still possess an ample estate. When quite a child young Pecci took kindly to his books, and under the Jesuits he became one of the finest Latin scholars of the age. He was early sent to Rome for his studies, and he gained youthful fame as a disputant for his degrees in the Roman College and the Sapienza. He then entered the Academy of Nobles Ecclesiastics. His youth was a series of academical triumphs, each of which signalled the addition of a fresh province of learning to his intellectual dominions. Classics were first mastered, then mathematics, then physics and afterward moral philosophy, in which he gave instruction at the age of 19. Perhaps he might have remained a scholar and nothing more, but in the third decade of his life he fell under the influence—one would rather say rose to the influence—of the famous Cardinal Odescalchi, a man who in another age might have played the great part of Ignatius Loyola. Odescalchi it was who renounced the purple to enter the Order of Jesus and who gave innumerable other proofs of Christian humility and of devotion to his Master's cause. Among the services which he rendered to the Church of Rome not the least was the conversion of Pecci, as one may call it in the true sense of the word. He turned his mind to a serious, though not to an austere, view of religion and had the happiness of admitting him to holy orders. He was ordained priest on December 23, 1827, being already a lay prelate in the household of Gregory XVI. He was appointed one of the domestic chaplains to Pope Gregory on March 16, 1827.

### As Governor of Benevento.

In 1838 he was sent to govern the Delegation (province) of Benevento. His selection for this important position created considerable surprise in the province in consequence of the youth of the prelate. He was not long there, however, before the people were equally surprised at the ability, energy and prudence displayed by Pecci, and were brought to acknowledge the wisdom of his appointment. He was especially successful in eradicating from the province the scourge of brigandage, which had long been a terror to the population. The difficult experiment of extinguishing this system of outlawry was increased by the fact that the outlaws made a rendezvous of the mountains separating the Roman province of Benevento from the Neapolitan dominion, and in the event of pursuit could easily evade their pursuers by simply crossing the border. But notwithstanding this obstacle, Pecci, by his aggressive policy, energy and perseverance, succeeded in thoroughly exterminating them.

From Benevento Pecci was transferred to the important province of Perugia, where he conducted himself with similar boldness and integrity. He was then nominated to be Apostolic Delegate at Spoleto, but never entered on that charge, for he was dispatched to Brussels in 1843 to act as Nuncio to Belgium. At the same time he was created Archbishop of Damiatina in partibus infidelium. Leopold II was much pleased with Pecci during the three years he served as Nuncio, and when, from ill-health, Pecci resigned from that office, Leopold II gave him a letter to the Pope, in which he begged his Holiness to create Pecci a Cardinal. Gregory XVI did not immediately comply with this request, but he gave Pecci the bishopric of Perugia and a promise made by letter of Lambruschini, Secretary of State, to give him a Cardinal's hat after a few years' time.

Pecci was made Bishop of Perugia in January, 1846, and in a few months Gregory XVI died. It has been falsely said that Gregory created Pecci a Cardinal in petto and that Pius IX delayed seven years before he published that creation. But every Cardinal created in petto takes precedence from the date of his creation, not from his publication, and Pius IX had no power to interpose delay in the publication of any Cardinal created in petto by his predecessor, nor was Pius IX bound to fulfill the promise made by Gregory.

As Bishop of Perugia Pecci acquired a great reputation for zeal, prudence and activity, and his fame was constantly extending to the Holy City. He labored to promote the doctrines and the schools for the clergy and people, not only in ecclesiastical matters, but also in all branches of knowledge.

### His Selection as Successor to Pope Pius

**O**N December 10, 1853, Pecci was created Cardinal. On July 8, 1857, he succeeded Cardinal de Angellis as Camerlengo, or High Chamberlain of the Roman Church. In this position he displayed the same firmness and activity that had characterized his lifelong connection with the church. He promulgated some acts of severity and insisted that persons under the rule of the Vatican should hold themselves amenable thereto. This severity spread throughout the city of Rome and according to public opinion his probable chances for the Pontificate were materially diminished in consequence, but in reality it increased the reputation of the Camerlengo.

The career of Cardinal Pecci had been watched with keen interest by Batazzi, who early formed an accurate estimate of the man. In a letter to his wife he wrote: "There is a man who has, in my opinion, a great chance of succeeding to the Papacy if Antonelli should die before the Pope, and this is Cardinal Pecci, the Archbishop of Perugia. And my opinion is that the accession of Cardinal Pecci to the Pontifical throne would not produce much change in the present status quo. This Pecci is a man of undeniable merit, who has often caused me much thought, and much preoccupied my mind."

Batazzi's expectations concerning Pecci were realized. Antonelli died, and Pius IX followed him, on February 7, 1878. Pecci, in his capacity as Camerlengo, acted as head of the church in temporal matters, made the arrangements for the obsequies of Pope Pius, received the Catholic ambassadors and superintended the preparations for the conclave. Sixty-two cardinals attended the conclave, which was held February 18, 1878. The Sacred College was divided into two parties. One called the "Zealots" was led by Cardinal Billio, and the second, the "Moderates," by Cardinal Pecci.

### Is Chosen Pope.

There were three ballots, which, on good authority, are said to have been as follows:

First ballot—Cardinal Pecci, 17 votes; Cardinal Billio, 6 votes; Cardinal di Lucca, 5 votes; Cardinal Ferreri, 4 votes; Cardinal Franchi, 4 votes; Cardinal Monaco de la Valetta, 4 votes; the rest scattering.

Second ballot—Cardinal Pecci, 35 votes. No other Cardinal exceeded six votes. Cardinal Martinelli gained two votes, making three for this ballot.

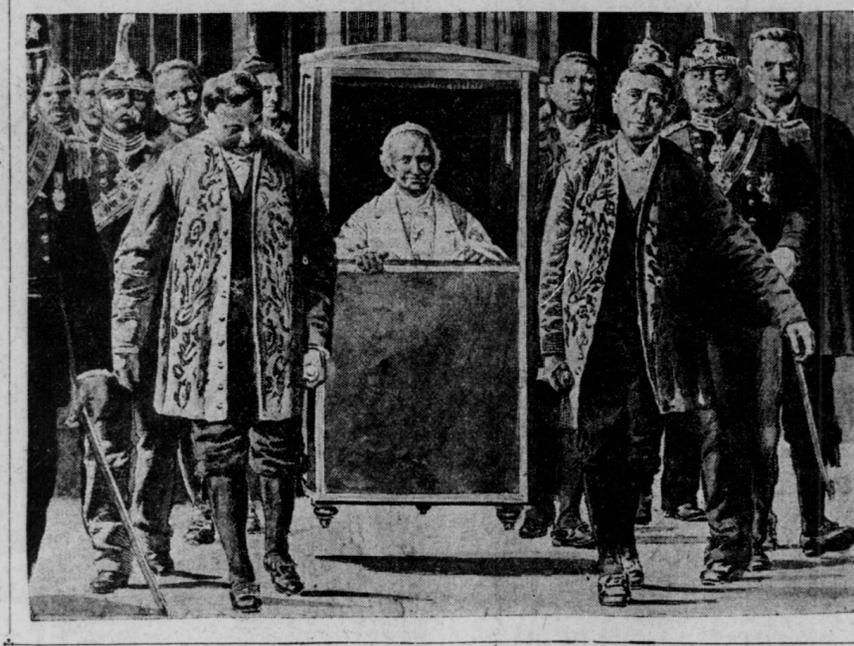
Third ballot—Cardinal Pecci, 44 votes. The remaining votes were distributed as follows: 11 were given to Cardinal Franchi, 3 to Cardinal Mertel, 2 to Cardinal Simeoni, 1 to Cardinal Bonaparte and 1 to Cardinal Ledokowski.

At the end of this ballot Cardinals Franchi and Billio rose and with their adherents knelt before the Camerlengo. Every one followed this example, and Cardinal Pecci, having already received two votes beyond the necessary majority, was unanimously elected Pope.

The Monsignor who stepped up to him and announced the result at the same time offered his Holiness the customary white silk skull cap, worn by the Supreme Pontiff alone. Now, according to immemorial etiquette, the newly elected Pope should have presented the messenger with the red silk cap he had until then worn, and so elevated the bearer of good news to the dignity of Cardinal. Pecci, however, merely accepted the new cap and put the old one into his own pocket. Then he was asked by what title he would like to be proclaimed. "What saint's day is it?" he replied. "St. Leo's." "Then proclaim me as Leo XIII."

### Concerning His Modesty.

Cardinal de Bonnechose used to tell this story of the conclave: "Cardinal Pecci, who the previous evening had received the largest number of votes, was, on that Wednesday morning, pale and agitated. He went to one of the members of the Sacred College, in whom he had every confidence, and said to him before the opening of the ballot: 'I cannot restrain myself; I feel the necessity of speaking to the Sacred College; I fear it may commit an error. People have given me the reputation of a learned doctor; I am believed to be a savant; I am not. I am supposed to have the qualities necessary to be a Pope; I have not. That is what I wish to say to the Cardinals.' Fortunately, his



Pope as He Appeared in Sedan Chair in Vatican Gardens.

interlocutor replied: 'As to your doctrine, you have not to judge of it, but us; as to your qualities for the Papacy, God knows them, but let him act.' He obeyed, and soon, the number of votes given to him having exceeded the two-thirds of the total, he was named Pope."

### Magnificent Ceremonial at His Coronation

**T**HE coronation of his Holiness Pope Leo XIII was performed in the Sistine Chapel, with the pomp and circumstance formerly attending the ceremonial in St. Peter's, only it was not public, inasmuch as the limited space did not permit general admission, and for the same reason no tickets were issued. The Sala Ducale was fitted up as a chapel, and the Pauline Chapel was arranged for those preliminary portions of the ceremonial formerly performed in the Clementine and other chapels of St. Peter's before the Pope went up to the high altar to be crowned. The ceremony was attended by all the Ambassadors and Ministers accredited to the Holy See, with their ladies and suites; by all the Roman nobility counted among the faithful, by the Duke and Duchess of Parma and suite, who occupied the royal tribune, and by the three or four hundred ladies and gentlemen, as many only as filled all the tribunes without crowding. At 9:30 o'clock his Holiness, attended by the Pontifical Court, the College of Cardinals and a large number of bishops and other ecclesiastical dignitaries, entered the Sala Ducale, carrying a gold miter. Having taken his seat on the throne erected there, he received homage from the cardinals, and, rising, pronounced the words "Sit nomen Domini benedictum," giving the first benediction. The preliminary ceremonies being completed the procession formed and passed out into the Sala Regia to the Pauline Chapel, and thence again through the Sala Regia to the Sistine. As the Pope and his cortege came through the great door from the Sala Ducale into the Sala Regia, they formed a group far exceeding in magnificent effect anything of the same kind ever seen in St. Peter's in past times. Having descended from the sedia gestatoria in the middle Sistine Chapel, the Pope, after a brief prayer, commenced the introit of the mass, which on this occasion is celebrated by him.

### Crowning the Pope.

At the end of the confession the first Cardinal Deacon placed a gold miter on the Pope's head, and he ascended the throne, which stood as of old on a dais at the left side. The first Cardinal Bishop then recited the customary three prayers over him, after which he arose and, going to the foot of the altar, knelt on the step, while the first Cardinal Deacon removed his tiara and the second invested him with a pontifical pallium. This done, the Pope reascended the throne, when the Sacred College and all the ecclesiastics present went up to pay him homage, the Cardinals kissing his foot and his hand and receiving from him the double embrace. The Bishops kissed his foot and right knee and others his foot only. The mass then proceeded. At the conclusion of the mass the Pope gave the benediction in front of the altar and then returned to the throne to receive the tiara.

### Pontiff's Moderate Policy.

The late Pope's first acts after his elevation to the Papacy produced a favorable impression, because they denoted an enlightened mind and a character at once firm and moderate. He found religious matters compromised and gravely troubled in various parts of the globe. He was anxious to end the crisis. Thus, on the very day of his election, in notifying his advent to the throne to the Cabinets of Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Brazil, he took the initiative in favor of conciliation and formally expressed a desire to smooth the difficulties which disturbed the peace of religion.

### Toward the Italian Government.

The attitude of Leo XIII was full of reserve and dignity. He was anxious to settle the conflict concerning the taking possession of their sees by the Bishops and the due notification demanded by the Government. Leo XIII prudently pointed out the urgent necessity of ending this dispute.

### Leo XIII gained for the Catholic Church a proud position in the world, not only as prince of the church, but as prince of peace. Europe acknowledged that for many decades no such far-seeing head as

Leo XIII has worn the triple crown, and that, excepting Prince Bismarck, no layman in Europe has shown such skill in the most delicate diplomatic negotiations as the late Pope. See all that he has done. His successes in his negotiations with the German Chancellor, and the remarkable foresight shown in his dealings with Spain and in putting the Holy See into friendly relations with republican France, showed his skillfulness and rare diplomatic sense. As prince of peace he was called upon to settle the most difficult problems. Under his guidance the bitter Kulturkampf that raged in Germany since the year 1870 was ended.

### Brooked No Advisers.

Leo brooked no advisers, and neither asked nor expected any human aid. He had a will of his own and followed no other. His own line of conduct was traced long before his accession. He had no worldly policy; his reign was not of this world; his trust was not in princes; his gendarmes and Swiss guards were only an encumbrance and a vexation to him; he had faith in his priestly office—in his office as guardian of God's truth and herald of God's word. He bade Christians fight unbelief with his own weapons; he taught them how to meet the sophisms of man's science with the sounder arguments of God's knowledge; he would set Aaron's rod against the rod of the magicians, and he pointed to Louvain as the mansion of truth against which the gates of hell could not prevail. It was unarmed faith, he thought, the reasoning, and not the militant church, which rules Belgium; and if Belgium, why not one day France? Why not eventually also Italy? Spread true light among the people; combat error by dispelling ignorance; win the masses over to the eternal, unchangeable truth; base morality on heaven's law; bid God's kingdom come; make God's will the people's will, and what king or parliament, asked the Pope, could stand against it? What array of civil authority or of military power could avail against the unarmed authority, the unassuming yet irresistible ascendancy of the church? Such was Pope Leo's views of his mission so far as it can be made out from his precedents as a Bishop and from his acts as a Pontiff.

### The number of theological students in Germany has diminished gradually from 4267 in 1830 to 2149, or less than half, although the population has doubled since 1830. The insufficiency in the number of candidates for the ministry is discussed as a matter of exceeding gravity by German theologians.

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## SPIRIT THAT DEATH RELEASED LEAVES WORK-WORN BODY

Dead Ruler's Countenance Famous for Its Heart-Winning Qualities.

Of Slight Build, His Powers of Endurance Stand Alone in History.

**P**OPE LEO XIII entered his pontificate in the sixty-eighth year of his age, a long-tried prelate, whose strength of character, energy, judgment, piety, virtues and services are matters of record. He united in admirably proportioned degrees the apostolic mildness with the administrative rigor; he made himself at the same time loved and feared. Personally he was a man of stately bearing. His voice was sonorous and brilliant when he preached and slightly nasal in familiar conversation.

Leo XIII was a tall man, rather spare in build, but nevertheless of strong and wiry physique. His presence was most commanding. His head was very large and thoroughly Italian. The forehead was massive, high and rather straight and was especially striking from its great width, indicative of intellectual strength. The thin hair that streaked it was of silver hue. The eyebrows were dark and heavy and of perfect arch and the eyes were singularly mild and soft and at the same time penetrating and searching. The large, well defined nose was characteristic of firmness and will power, decidedly Roman in shape, but with wide nostrils that were credited by physiognomists with bold leonine qualities.

In private life he was simple, affectionate, lovable and witty. In the ceremonies of the church, under the purple, he was grave, austere and majestic. One would say that he was given to posing, but that was not true. The pose with him was natural; he did not seek it; it sought him. It was the same with Pius IX. The pontificate creates a second nature.

A photograph of Cardinal Pecci, taken in 1870, when he attended the Ecumenical Council, gives one an admirable idea of the personal presence of the Pope. With it appear also the likenesses of all the other cardinals, and it is no exaggeration to say that Pecci's head is by far the most impressive in this gallery. There are sterner heads, heads more severely intellectual, or austere grand, or cast perhaps in finer diplomatic mold; but for supreme kindness and benevolence and a certain beaming, gentle grace, no face in the galaxy of cardinals can approach it.

Like that of Pio Nono, it was a countenance that won at once and immediately the way to the scrutiner's heart. At the same time it was stronger in its intellectual quality than was that of Pio Nono, and it was particularly conspicuous in the manifestation of sound sense and clear judgment.

The Pope was a member of the Confraternity of the Holy Blood of Bruges. The relic in question—the blood of our Lord—is contained in a phial of crystal and gold, deposited in the chapel of that name in the old Spanish-Flemish city. His Holiness was once asked whether he seriously believed in the genuineness of the relic. He frankly replied that he had not studied the question. "But," he added, "I have in this crucifix a relic asserted to be a portion of the true cross. What I do know is that, according to all laws of evidence, it can be traced back to the possession of a Pope of the seventh century. I think, after proving this much, we may fairly leave the burden of demonstrating its unauthenticity to skeptics. The Popes of the seventh century were shrewd enough."

### Daily Life of the Late Pope Leo XIII

**H**ERE is an account of the daily life of the late Pope, written lately by a gentleman who had full opportunity of observation:

"Leo XIII rises every morning at half past 6 o'clock and is aided in dressing by a domestic named Centra, like himself born at Carpineto. The father of this Centra is latter to the Sacred College. The Pope then says mass in his own private chapel and has another mass said for him, at which he is present. Then he takes his breakfast, consisting of a single cup of coffee and milk. After this he receives his private secretaries, Mgr. Boccali and Mgr. Laurenti, who bring him news of what is transpiring and give him information regarding the general correspondence—letters, documents, etc.—which they have been examining during the interval. His Holiness then receives Cardinal Jacobini, secretary of state, and subsequently, each in their turn, the various members of the Sacred College, with whom he holds council in regard to the various congregations to which their Emnences belong. At 1 o'clock the Pope takes his second breakfast, consisting of soup—rice soup, by preference—a fritter and a small quantity of roast meat. He drinks Bordeaux wine—but real Bordeaux, of whose origin there is no doubt—his wine being regularly sent to the Holy Father by the nuns of a convent situated in the Department la Gironde. After this repast he takes an hour and a half of sleep, according to an old custom of his, which partly compensates him for the long hours of busy wakefulness he must pass.

### Intolerance Not a Part of His Creed

**A**POET as well as a statesman and pontiff Leo remained to the last, as is evidenced by the fact that a fine poem by him was published as late as the spring of this year. In it we note all his old vigor and grace of diction. A remarkable achievement it was for a man of his years, and for it he won high praise from competent critics throughout the civilized world. Of him indeed it may be said that whatever he did was well done. There have been many pontiffs, but not many who have done greater deeds or endeared themselves more to all Christendom than Leo XIII. A conservative in many respects.



The Pope's Guard of Nobles.

to Rome, or perhaps to some member of the Roman aristocracy—of that portion of it which has remained faithful to the Holy See, be it well understood. About 10 p. m. the Pope retires to his room, where he remains shut up until half past 11 o'clock.

"When I asked a certain very well informed prelate as to how the Holy Father occupied himself during this lapse of time, he replied:

"No one really knows anything about it. We only see the light in the Pope's room. The general opinion is that he is praying or meditating. But one thing at least is certain, he is not writing. He is very much averse to using the pen at all, for his hand trembles."

"It may be also partly for this reason that it is so difficult—I had almost said impossible—to obtain an autograph of Leo XIII, or even a simple signature.

"But let me also add that there is another reason for this. The Pope has a real dread that his writing might be made to serve as a pretext for speculation—speculation in the sale of photographs bearing his signature—as occurred in the days of Pius IX.

"Between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon the Pope used to take his walk. At this time no one unconnected with the court was admitted to the gardens of the Vatican. An eyewitness, however, who had the good fortune to make friends with the gardener, Salviatori, was placed by him so as to be able to see the Pope on one of his daily rambles. Leo XIII advanced with long strides, his imposing figure becomingly dressed in the simple and majestic Pontifical robes. The Pope preceded most of his suite, as if he wished to rest in solitude after the long day of his public duties. To the great disappointment of Salviatori, who had prepared some rustic seats, the Pope did not profit by them. He stopped a moment before the lattice of the aviary, smiled at the golden pheasants, at the fawn-like pigeons, with the benevolence of a St. Francis d'Assisi, then resumed his walk, penetrating the thicket which occupies a large part of the garden. 'His Holiness,' Salviatori explained, 'takes a rapid walk of an hour and a half every day till the Ave Maria.' In the middle of a large square, carefully graveled, were reproduced, by a design in young boxwood, cut close and carefully trimmed, the arms of the Pope, with the legend, 'Leo XIII, Pont. Max.', the cypress, the star and the lilies of the Peccis being carefully outlined. Leo XIII did not pay much attention to the work of Salviatori, but one need not therefore conclude that his Holiness did not care for art. It was he who ordered all the tapestries which are in the Vatican to be collected and placed in chronological order and according to the schools to which they belong, a collection which will be of exceptional importance, and in many ways he showed his interest in things not ecclesiastical but relating to general culture."

His handwriting is peculiar enough to excite interest even if it were not that of the Pope. It is exceedingly small and of very careful, laborious construction, as if each of the infinitesimal characters was formed with the most painstaking care. In its airy delicacy it resembles a lady's hand, but the mosaic elaboration of every stroke has something highly scholastic about it. Under his diminutive signature the Pope leaves half an inch of vacant space and then completes it by five dashes, growing successively smaller and smaller.

Pope Leo XIII had a marvelous memory, which he retained up to the last. Speaking of him in December, 1896, Archbishop Stonor, who frequently attended on him, said:

"He recollects many of the people he receives after intervals of as long as sixty years. Many years ago, when Lord Palmerston was Premier, his Holiness visited England and was presented to the Queen and Prince Consort. Of that visit he still remembers the small details, and only a short time ago he mentioned Sir James Graham, who was one of the Ministers of the period, and spoke of the part he took in a controversy respecting posts and telegraphs." Again, when a Miss O'Connell was presented to the Pope a short time ago, his Holiness asked whether she was a relative of the distinguished parliamentarian of that name, and on learning that she was his niece he said: "I well recollect hearing your uncle speak in the House of Commons."

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