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Characteristics of Pope Leo XIII.

Mild in Private, Stately in Public.

POPE LEO XIII. entered his pontificate in the sixty-eighth year of his age, a long-trying prelate, whose strength of character, energy, judgment, piety, virtues and services are matters of record.



A CHARACTERISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE POPE, AND ONE IN WHICH MANY VISITING AMERICANS HAVE SEEN HIM AT THE VATICAN.

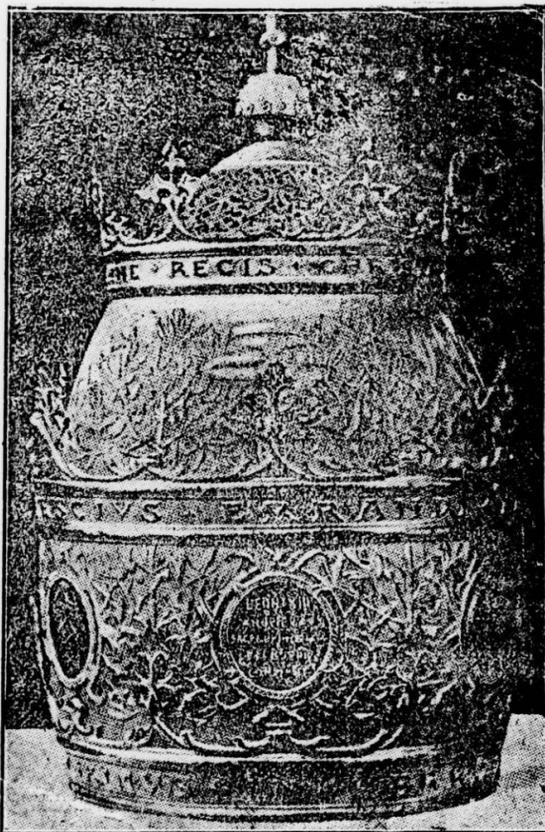
He united in admirably proportioned degrees the apostolic mildness with the administrative rigor; he made himself at the same time loved and feared. Personally, he was a man of stately

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 mould; 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. Leo XIII. was a tall man, rather spare in build, but nevertheless, of strong, wiry physique. His presence was most commanding. His head was very large and thoroughly Italian. It differed from the good natured roundness of Pio Nono's by its great length and the sharper outlines which it reached toward the chin. 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

The Famous Tiara of the Pope.



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, said, "I well recollect hearing your uncle speak in the House of Commons."

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 February, 1903. In it we note all his old vigor and grace of diction. A real achievement it was for a man of his years.

Of him indeed it may be said that whatever he did was well done. There have been many pontiffs, but not many

of modern progress and he recognized the potency of modern ideas. A man of narrow mind might have come forth as a champion against them, but not such a man was Leo. Intolerance formed no part of his creed; class prejudices found no favor in his eyes. In his masterly encyclicals he spoke authoritatively and most wisely, not always on purely ecclesiastical subjects, but very often also on subjects which are of world-wide secular interest. Thus he was more than an ecclesiastic; he was also a great statesman. Of his personal character, all who were ever privileged to know him, have spoken in the highest terms. That he was very charitable and kindly is known to all. In a word, he bore himself nobly in his high office, and now that he has gone to his reward all who have watched his sterling and loyal work will admit that he was a true and eminently sagacious shepherd of the people.

Many anecdotes have been related as to the personal characteristics of Pope Leo XIII. He was accessible and affable to all who sought an audience and consequently thousands of those who have visited Rome retain vivid impressions of the Pontiff. Simplicity and frugality of living enabled him to husband his strength and to accomplish an amount of work devolving upon him as "head of the church," which to many men of greater physical strength would have seemed appalling. But Pope Leo XIII. was well entitled to be considered in many respects the grandest old man of the age.

The Raising of Silk Worms.

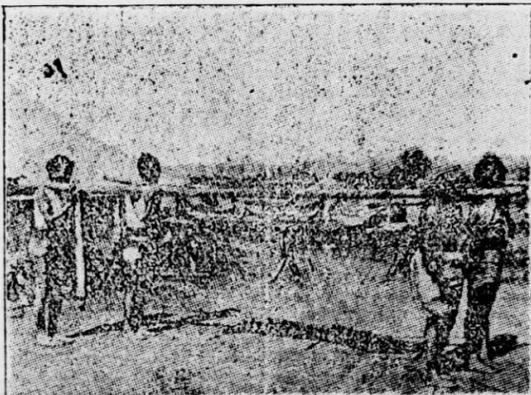
It is seldom that anything but mulberry leaves are employed to feed silk-worms in France. Very rarely the worms hatch before the mulberry leaves are out, and on such occasions they are fed young rose leaves for a few days. About 99,000 acres of land in France are planted in mulberries; 40,810 pounds of leaves are necessary to produce 2.2 pounds of cocoons. The production of fresh cocoons from one ounce of eggs in France varies from forty-five to 147 pounds.



COUNTESS PECCI, MOTHER OF THE POPE.

who have done greater deeds or endeared themselves more to all Christendom than Leo XIII. A conservative in many respects, he was at the same time a true child of the century, and hence he could not be blind to the march of events. He saw the meaning

AN INCIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MOROS OF MINDANAO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.



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bearing. His voice was sonorous and brilliant when he preached, and slightly nasal in familiar conversation. In private life he was simple, affectionate, lovable and witty. In the ceremonies



TYPES OF THE SWISS GUARDS.

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

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 lionine qualities.

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 left half an inch of vacant space and then completed it by five dashes, growing successively smaller and smaller.

Pope Leo XIII. had a marvellous 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,