

LEO'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Fifty Years Ago He Was Consecrated Archbishop.

A WISE AND MERCIFUL PONTIFF.

Enlightened and Progressive, He Is Recognized as the Most Remarkable Diplomatist of the Present Era—What His Liberal Policy Accomplished in Holland and Belgium—Leo the Peacemaker Will Be His Name in History.

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Just 50 years have elapsed since the consecration of Leo XIII as archbishop of Damietta in partibus infidelium on the eve of his departure for Brussels, to the court of which he had been appointed as nuncio. His nomination to this exceedingly difficult post, which created universal surprise in consequence of his youth, was the personal act of Pope Gregory XVI, who desired to recognize in this way the services which Joachim Pecci had rendered as pontifical delegate and governor of Perugia. The latter, until the arrival there of young Pecci, had been regarded as a hotbed of discontent and revolution. Before he had been there long he observed that the only access to the town—which is built upon a mountain side—was by means of a steep and precipitous path, fit only for foot passengers, asses and mules. Accordingly he immediately set to work to construct a broad carriage road of easy gradient in its stead. With such energy and vigor did he push forward the operations that, when a few months later Pope Gregory visited the town, he was able to drive up right to the very door of the cathedral in his carriage. Moreover, the pontiff was greeted by the populace with the most extravagant demonstrations of loyalty, and all signs of that hostile disposition for which the Perugians had until then been notorious were conspicuous by their absence.

Gregory rightly attributed this remarkable change to the young governor's enterprise in opening up the new road, and thereby infusing fresh blood and prosperity into the town, and it was as a reward for his services in this connection that Pecci received the appointment of nuncio to the court of Belgium. Until that time his work on behalf of the church had been mostly of an administrative character, and there were many who expressed fears that his lack of diplomatic experience and knowledge would cause his mission to result in failure. These apprehensions turned out to be groundless, and the young nuncio at Brussels soon gave indications of that rare genius for statecraft which has caused him to be recognized as the most remarkable diplomatist of the present era.

During the three years which he spent at Brussels Archbishop Pecci became exceedingly popular, both at court and with the masses. He grew to be famous for his brilliant repartees and delicate wit as much as for his political acumen and tact, and became a particular favorite of cynical and freethinking old King Leopold. While at Brussels he formed the acquaintance of the queen of England, and in response to a pressing invitation on her part spent a month at Windsor before returning to Rome. This delay prevented his reaching the Eternal City in time to see Pope Gregory alive. The latter died quite suddenly in May, 1846, only a few days after having signed the appointment of the young nuncio to the archbishopric of Perugia.

During the reign of the beloved Pius IX, Mgr. Pecci withdrew to Perugia. When Pius IX died Cardinal Pecci was chosen Pope. His first task was to bring to a conclusion the dispute known as the Kulturkampf between the papacy and the German government. His efforts in that direction were crowned with success, and with but few concessions on his own part he managed to secure from Prince Bismarck the repeal of all the objectionable features of the so-called Falk ecclesiastical laws in Prussia.

Diplomatic relations with the czar were renewed, greatly to the benefit of the Catholic church in Poland and other parts of Russia. Indeed the Catholic church in Muscovy today occupies an infinitely more advantageous position in every way than the Lutheran church, and Leo has, on the contrary, recommended obedience, and he has not only secured the recall from Siberia of many Catholic bishops and priests who were exiled by the czar during the papacy of Pius IX, but has also brought about more friendly relations between the orthodox Greek rite and the Catholic church than have existed at any time since the schism of the former, many hundred years ago. One of Pope Leo's fondest and most ardent wishes has been to effect a definite reconciliation and reunion between these two great branches of the Christian church, and it is quite possible that before he brings to a close his brilliant and enlightened reign this cherished project of his may become realized.

In France Leo has succeeded in placing once more on an amicable footing the relations between church and state and in putting an end to the persecution to which the clergy and religious associations had been subjected during the pontificate of Pius IX. His political presence and insight enabled him to perceive that France is now definitely committed to a republican form of government by the will of its people, and that a continuance of the alliance between the clergy and the monarchical party could only result in injury to the latter by estranging therefrom those persons religiously inclined who did not see their way to unite to their belief in the teachings of the church an allegiance to the monarchical party. Accordingly Leo XIII issued a series of pastoral letters and encyclicals, in which he commanded the French clergy to preach from their pulpits obedience and loyalty to the republic.

Of course there was a great outcry at first on the part of the French aristocracy, and even among the higher ranks of the French clergy, who had allied their fortunes too closely to those of the royalist pretender. But Leo declined to permit the church to be used as an instrument for the selfish political projects of the Comte de Paris and of Prince Victor Bonaparte, and persisted in the course which he had adopted, with the result that there has been during the last year or two a distinct revival of religious feeling throughout France, since the people have now learned from the mouth of the holy father himself that it is possible to be a fervent Catholic and a good and patriotic republican at one and the same time.

The conflict between the Swiss government and the Vatican, which had resulted during the reign of Pius IX in the expulsion of the late Cardinal Mermillod from the territory of the Helvetic republic, has likewise been brought to a close by Leo XIII, and the exiled prelate was welcomed back to Bern with extraordinary official honors. The dynasties of both Spain and Portugal are indebted to Pope Leo's support for the maintenance of their thrones in exceedingly critical moments, and for the first time since the reformation in Great Britain an interchange of diplomatic courtesies has taken place between the court of St. James and that of the Vatican. Moreover, if the Catholics have obtained the upper hand in Belgium and Holland, and Catholic administrations are now in power at Brussels and at The Hague, it is primarily due to the sagacious and liberal policy of the present pope.

Nor have Leo's efforts been confined to Europe. In 1886 he dispatched a special mission to the emperors of China and Japan and established friendly and diplomatic relations with them, securing thereby valuable privileges for the church in the far east. Throughout his reign so far the foreign policy of the papal government has been conducted with rare and enlightened statesmanship. His holiness seems to realize that it is the duty of the church to offer peace rather than war; that her role instead of being that of the aggressor should be that of the peacemaker, and one of the greatest triumphs of his life has been when Germany and Spain appealed to him jointly to act as arbiter of their differences on the subject of the Caroline islands, thereby paying tribute to his pre-eminent qualities as a statesman, as a diplomat, and, above all, as a peacemaker.

The attitude of Leo XIII toward the Italian government may appear at first sight to be characterized by considerably less liberality, breadth of view or conciliation than that adopted toward other powers. The circumstances of the case are, however, peculiar and must be taken into consideration, as must also the various conflicting interests which the pontiff has to bear in mind and the influences which he is called upon to counteract. During the early part of his reign Leo openly adopted a policy of reconciliation toward the Italian government which had won for him while archbishop of Perugia the good will of the Italian authorities. Slowly and surely he made his way—aye, and may be making it still—toward a definite understanding between the Vatican and the Quirinal.

Cardinal Kopp and the Kaiser.

Right Rev. Dr. Kopp, prince bishop of Breslau, who has recently been raised to the cardinalate, is very highly esteemed by the German emperor. The great ecclesiastic which he displayed at the time of the miners' strike in Silesia won for him the admiration of the Kaiser. At the conference which was called to discuss the labor situation in Germany Bishop Kopp was among the first invited by the young ruler.

For the love of a woman is truly her life.

And the love of a woman blooms out in the life.

And the love of a woman—no better thing is known in the whole world where the sun shines.

THE CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Its Action Directed with Care and Solicitude by the Holy Father.

And now among all the nations of the earth there is one for which the holy father has ever shown a very special affection. That nation is our own America. All nations are dear to him, whose duty it is to cherish every portion of the vast flock of Christ. Some of them are very dear to his heart because of their heroic suffering for the religion of our Saviour, but he recognizes that America's vocation is, like his own, one of cosmopolitan unification, and therefore has she a place of special nearness to his heart. America is the heaven of peace, toward which all the nationalities of the earth flock as to a land of promise; in which all the national rivalries and hostilities of the earth die out; in which all the happy differences of the earth are blended into harmonious unity. Here better than anywhere else in the world the universal brotherhood of men is exemplified and finds a field for its realization. Here better than anywhere else has the presence of God brought about the equalization and unification of men in the natural order, and thereby laid the best foundation for that equalization and unification of all men in the supernatural order, which is the wish and the plan of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore does the holy father watch and direct with special affection and solicitude the action of the church in America, that it may ever accord with the providential plan of harmonizing and unifying all the actions of human society. More than once has his voice been uplifted, warning us against permitting the spirit of nationalism to hinder or lessen the unifying tendencies of divine faith and charity, so admirably blending with the unifying genius of our country. And now we hear him urging us in tones of paternal tenderness and earnestness to cultivate in every possible way harmonious relations between the body and the soul of human society, between the civil and the spiritual authorities, in all matters in which they can work together.

—from Bishop Keane's Address.

"They Are All Our Brothers."

The pope is the father of all his children. His heart goes out to the four quarters of the earth, and the needs of its inhabitants fill him with solicitude. The deep sympathy he took and still takes in the great work of the late Cardinal Lavigne is well known and has excited commendation from non-Catholic governments.

The Patriote, of Brussels, reports a conversation which the pope had recently with Mgr. Jacobs, president of the Antislavery society and dean of the Belgian capital. His holiness heartily praised Belgium for the work she has done in Africa, both by giving the missionaries security for evangelization and civilization and defending the poor blacks against the abominable slave merchants. At terminating, the pope besought him to say aloud to those blessed with the riches of the world not to forget the unfortunate victims of the dark continent. "They are all our brothers," he said, "and from the bottom of my heart I call down the benediction of the Almighty on those who will aid to deliver them from their chains and to match from death those who are as much entitled, under heaven, to liberty and life as any of us." A subscription with that object has been begun at Brussels.—Catholic News.

The New English Cardinal.

Archbishop Vaughan of Westminster, who has been elevated to the cardinalate, has received his red hat with unprecedented rapidity. His predecessor, Manning, although a particular protégé of Pius IX, had to wait 10 years for his appointment to the archbishopric of Westminster before he was called to the cardinalate. No doubt the decease of the three English cardinals—Newman, Manning and Howard—in quick succession paved the way for Dr. Vaughan's promotion. Besides, as Bishop of Salford, Dr. Vaughan has been qualifying for years past for a primed of the church by his constant and vigorous championship, both in speech and in print, of the rights and claims of the papacy.

What title will he assume? Every cardinal has a titular church in Rome and takes formal possession of it immediately after receiving the red hat from the hands of the pope. Newman's was St. George in Velabro; Manning's, St. Andrew and Gregory on the Caelian hill. Probably Pope Leo will assign the latter to Cardinal Vaughan. There is only one instance on record in our century of an Englishman declining the offer of a cardinal's hat. The Rev. Dr. Lingard, the Catholic historian of England, was the ecclesiastic who thus preferred to remain a clerical commoner.

Be One With God.

Let your will be one with God's will and be glad to be disposed of by him. He will order all things for you. Who can cross your will when it is one with his will, on which all creation hangs, round which all things revolve? Keep your hearts clear of evil thoughts; for evil choices estrange the will from his will, so evil thoughts cloud the soul and hide him from us. Whatever sets us in opposition to him makes our will an intolerable torment. So long as we will one thing and he another we go on piercing ourselves through and through with a perpetual wound, and his will advances, moving on in sanctity and majesty, crushing ours into the dust.—Cardinal Manning.

Nothing Hottier.

For the love of a woman is truly her life.

And the love of a woman blooms out in the life.

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