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POPE PIUS X PASSES AWAY.

Rome, Aug. 20--Pope Pius X died at 1.20 A. M.

POPE PIUS X, known as "the peasant pope," was born of peasant parentage June 2, 1835, in the little village of Riese, in the province of Venice. He was the eldest of two brothers, and had six sisters. Following the custom of Italian peasants, the sisters never wore hats, and they were as simple folk after their brother's elevation as they were before.

The family name of Pope Pius X was Sarto, the Italian for "tailor." He was christened Giuseppe and was called "Beppo," the diminutive of Giuseppe, by his mother and sisters. Even after he entered the Vatican he was still Beppo to the three unmarried sisters who lived near him and with whom he spent many pleasant hours in the gardens of the Vatican.

The early life of the future pope was much like that of other boys of his time and position. He was educated at the Salesian Institute at Cortolongo and became a parish priest. It was only his unusual ability that enabled the future pontiff to complete his education, for his father had little money to spend, though the pinch of real poverty never touched the humble family.

The boy was aided materially by Abbe Tite Tosarri, who was impressed by the mental ability the youth showed. It was through the abbe's efforts that young Sarto was able to go through school. The boy devoted himself to his books so sincerely that his scholarship attracted much atten-

tion. He took many prizes in the primary school, and these resulted in his being sent to college at Padua, one of the most noted universities in the world.

Divided His Food With Friend.

Many stories have been told regarding the liberality of Pius X, and of his willingness at all times to give anything and everything he possessed to those less fortunate than himself. There is no incident, however, in the pontiff's career which stands out so prominently and is as characteristic of the man as that which occurred while he was still a youth at school.

One day Beppo entered the home of an old peasant with whom he was acquainted, only to find his friend bedridden and in danger of starving to death. Of money Beppo had none, and he thereupon decided to share his food with the poor old fellow.

Every day for nearly three months the future pope ate only a small portion of the food provided by the seminary, carrying the remainder to the invalid. The sacrifice on Beppo's part was brought to an end only by the death of the aged peasant.

That Pius X in his boyhood days was as full of animal spirits and mischievousness as the average boy everywhere is evident from the remark made by an old farmer, now nearly ninety years of age, living near Riese, who, on being told that Giuseppe Sarto had been made pope, exclaimed:

"Not Beppo—not that little rascal

Many are the cherries he has taken off my trees, me underneath the tree with a stick and he bidding me dedance and pelting me with stones."

Pius X. was only twenty-three years of age when he was consecrated a priest at Castel Franco, the birthplace of the great Master Giorgione, acting afterward for nine years as coadjutor to the parish priest of Tombolo, province of Padua, a small village of 3,000 people, who were the first to appreciate his virtues. His kindness was undiminished. He sought to fill their wants, and never a murmur was heard when he was called in the middle of a winter night to a deathbed which proved to be nothing of the kind. He gave freely of his small means until he often went without meals himself, but he kept many a poor family from starvation.

Made a Parish Priest in 1867.

In 1867 he was appointed parish priest at Salzano, which was considered an important promotion, being a village of 3,500 souls. Still, he was exceedingly sorry to leave Tombolo, having become attached to the people. The peasants when he left made a most enthusiastic demonstration, crying "Viva Don Giuseppe!" with many women whose children he had nursed when they were colicky.

He distinguished himself so much at Salzano that he was kept there only two years, which is remarkable in the career of an Italian parish

question on which, however, they soon gave way.

Sarto became the idol of the Venetians. When his gondola went through the canals the people rushed on the bridges and along the sides of the canals, kneeling and saluting, the women exclaiming, "God bless the patriarch!"

Learned to Love Venice.

Cardinal Sarto learned to love Venice as Venice learned to love him. He did not visit Rome more often than his duties demanded, and when asked if he enjoyed the gorgoness of the papal court and the magnificence of the functions Sarto answered, "When I am there I feel like a fish out of water."

While in Venice Cardinal Sarto retained many of the habits he had acquired as a curate. He disliked publicity, detested the praise and com-



ROOM IN WHICH POPE PIUS WAS BORN.

pliments of courtiers and was always frank, though timid. Though a high dignitary in the church, he was on friendly terms with the king and the government.

Two months before Cardinal Sarto became pope King Victor Emmanuel went to Venice to open the international art exhibition. The king gave orders that the patriarch be given precedence over all the local authorities, but Sarto having arrived while the king was speaking to the prefect, who is the highest government official in the province, he refused to be announced and said he would not disturb his majesty. He remained in an ante-chamber, affably conversing with the gentlemen and admirals gathered there.

When the king learned of his presence he came to receive him on the threshold of the chamber and kept him in conversation, accompanying him afterward in a gondola, while all the soldiers and guards rendered Sarto military honors.

MADE PONTIFF IN 1903.

Did Not Expect to Be Chosen and Bought Return Ticket.

Then came the death of Pope Leo XIII. In 1903, Cardinal Sarto was summoned from Venice to assist in the election of the new pope. That he had no expectation of being chosen is certain, because when he bought his ticket to Rome he bought a return ticket. He never used it, because he was elevated to the highest position in the church, and he never afterward left the Vatican.

His predecessor had been an aristocrat and a lover of ceremony and pomp. Pius X. was a peasant, and he hated formality and liked simplicity. He immediately made vast changes in the mode of life at the Vatican, but he was unable to do all that he would have liked to do. For instance, he wanted his sisters to live with him, to do his cooking and mend his socks. It was explained that this arrangement was impossible.

He had his sisters brought to Rome, intending to have them live in a house within the Vatican grounds. The sisters objected to the rules that would surround them under the circumstances, and a flat was rented near by, from the windows of which they could wave greetings to their beloved brother and could see his signals in reply.

When the vote of the cardinals conferred on him the highest dignity in the church he perceived at a glance that as a son of the people it would be his best policy as pope to continue in the democratic ways to which he had been accustomed for so long. Succeeding a pope of noble and aristocratic birth, Pius X. found that many of the formalities of life in the Vatican were not suited to him and forthwith abolished many of these formalities which for centuries had been in force at the Vatican and more strictly so under his immediate predecessor.

Refused to "Ride in a Box."

On the very day he was elected, when the sedan brought the sedan chair to carry him to his apartments from the conclave hall, he gently but firmly protested that he would rather walk than ride in a box. For days after that the master of the chamber had the sedan chair waiting in the pope's ante-chamber, but the determination of Pius X. to decline to use it never changed, and finally the chair had to be relegated to the attic.

The same happened with the portable throne which the popes have always used when going to and from a ceremony. Only in a few solemn occasions, when the ceremonies had to be held in St. Peter's, Pius X. consented to sit on this throne, but on all other instances, when the ceremonies were to take place in the Vatican palace itself, he always walked to the meeting place.

The democratic manners of Pius X. were very popular with his intimate secretaries and the prelates of his court. Soon after his election, finding that custom prescribed that the pope should take his meals all by himself, he rebelled and ordered that the table be always set for six persons. (Excepting the breakfast, which consisted of a cup of coffee which he took alone in his study, he partook of all his other meals together with his private secretaries and during the repast conversed familiarly with them, generally in the Venetian dialect.)

For the first few months of his pontificate the Vatican cooks had a hard time to please the democratic tastes of the new pope. The elaborate and formal dishes prescribed by long usage for the pope's table he abhorred and was never so happy as when his own sisters prepared for him a plain Venetian meal and brought it to the Vatican for his dinner or supper. His aversion to an elaborate repast compelled him at last to discharge the Vatican chef and replace him with a Venetian who did the cooking for him when still a bishop.

Abolished Court Ceremony.

One of the traits which made Pius X. very popular to the Roman people and to all his personal visitors was the democratic way in which he received them at the Vatican. Under the preceding popes a visitor before approaching the head of the church was obliged to make three formal genuflections, one at the threshold of the papal apartment, a second inside the door and the third when approaching the pope.

Pius X., however, soon dispensed with these formalities and had been known to go and meet his visitors at the very door and escort them out, no matter how humble their position in life, when they left the apartment. To any one who tried to kneel before him Pius X. promptly extended his hand and insisted on the person rising.

Among other signs of the pope's democracy was the abolition of many officials whose duties had long ceased to exist and who had become purely ornamental adjuncts of the papal court. Had he consulted only his individual desires he would have abolished the court altogether, but he realized that the exalted office he held demanded a certain amount of state, and he put aside his personal inclinations in this respect.

Again, he forbade the members of his establishment kneeling whenever he passed, as had been the custom for centuries. Such perpetual homage, the inability to walk in the garden or in the corridors of the Vatican without every person kneeling grated on him.

CALLED HIM AN ART CRITIC.

J. Pierpont Morgan Had Pleasant Interview in the Vatican.

J. Pierpont Morgan had an interview with Pope Pius X. in 1906, and in discussing the subject later the financier said: "I was struck by the intensely developed mentality of Pope Pius. He



LEAVING VENICE THE LAST TIME.

had a strongly intellectual face, with piercing eyes, but his smile was full of good will.

"I admired principally, however, his great simplicity of manner and his air of absolute sincerity. His democratic tendencies appealed to me. The pope declined to permit me to kneel to him as is customary, but took my hand in the American manner and gripped it cordially.

"The impression I received from my long conversation with him and the walk through the Vatican was one of deep regard for his well developed artistic sense. He had an intense and deep appreciation of the beauties and glories of the art treasures of the Vatican, and his observations and comments were not those of a mere amateur, but of a trained connoisseur of art.

"We talked of religion in our country, and I was pleased to find that the pope was fully cognizant of the conditions in the United States. He twice remarked that Americans were very good Christians."

The first man to gain the privilege of painting the portrait of Pope Pius X. was Henry J. Thaddeus, a British artist, who is a native of Ireland and

a Catholic.

"I was staying in Rome at the time of Leo XIII's death," said the artist after the picture was finished, "and as soon as his successor was chosen I sent in my application for permission to paint his portrait. Fortunately I had a friend among the cardinals, and through his influence, after many weary days of waiting, I was told that the pope would be graciously pleased to see me and give me some sittings."

It was then the middle of August and Rome was almost unbearably hot. I hardly know whom I picked the more, the holy father, swathed in his heavy pontifical robes, or myself, dressed in evening clothes and sweating gallons at every pore. I really believe I could have wrung the water out of my suit.

Patient and Kind.

"The patience and kindness of the pope during the four sittings were remarkable, especially when one considers how worn out he was with attending to ecclesiastical affairs, which occupied him nearly every moment of the day. Yet, in spite of all the worry and strain of having to receive so many delegates and discharge so many pressing duties, he never exhibited the slightest degree of impatience or fatigue. He took the liveliest interest in the progress of the picture.

"I was especially anxious to get the color of the eyes correctly, as I believe that a portrait painter should spend more time and pains on the eyes than any other part of the face. The eyes were truly the windows of the soul and the keynote of the portrait. 'Why, father,' I said one day after taking a careful look at him, 'your eyes are blue, like an Irishman's.'"

"Suomo fratello—we are brothers," said the pope, smiling. Unlike the majority of Italians, Pius X. had a very keen sense of humor, and no one enjoyed a good joke more than he. In fact, he often shocked some staid and pompous old cardinal by laughing at some trivial incident which the lesser churchmen regarded as merely annoying. "To you know," he told me one day, "that is one of the great disadvantages of being a pope—you have to be so solemn, to take yourself so seriously all the time. I do not think God meant us to be sad, and yet if I laugh my cardinals are all scandalized."

"In that respect, as well as in a good many others, there was a wide difference between Leo XIII. and Pius X. Leo XIII. was, like the rest of his countrymen, utterly lacking in a sense of the ridiculous. He smiled almost continually, to be sure, but it was a benign, kindly smile, not a humorous one. Pius X. did not smile so often; he was too oppressed with the care and weight of his position—but he would laugh right out if something funny occurred. Then, too, Pope Leo was a great stickler for dignity; Pius X. was not. The pomp and magnificence and state with which he was surrounded were a bore to him. He would have been far happier were he

back in Venice or as the poor parish priest he was in his earlier days."

Many stories are told of the early life of Pope Pius which throw a light on his later career.

Was a Muscular Christian.

While he was still a poor priest, the curate's house in which he lived having a little garden, he used to spend his spare hours in the open air reading his breviary. A wall separated the garden from the public road, and in this once several young men stopped to talk excitedly, and one of them resorted to profane words. No sooner had he spoken than Don Giuseppe, leaping over the wall, bestowed upon the irreverent fellow such a tremendous blow that it stung him for some time and inspired the others with a wholesome consideration for Don Giuseppe's persuasive powers.

He was already cardinal when he boasted still with a well known monsignore of being able to frighten alone a gang of thieves or robbers at night and proved it by confronting once in a lonely country road a handful of ruffians who attempted to disturb him and by often going out in the night all alone with a latchkey in his pocket to render assistance to the sick and dying.

VISITED DYING ATHEIST.

Called on Freethinker as Old Friend, Not as a Priest.

Once, among others, he was informed that a man who had long been a friend of his, although a freethinker, was on his deathbed. The hour was quite late. He sent to inquire whether the dying man would like to see one more "his friend Sarto." The answer was affirmative, and Bishop Sarto went as a friend, not as a Roman Catholic priest, to comfort with pure human sympathy the death of the atheist. He often maintained personal friendly relations with Jews and other individuals of various political opinions, and his courtesy and charity were unflinching toward all.

He often pawned his pastoral ring to get ready money for the poor and deprived himself and his family alike of every luxury, claiming that he was only the trustee, not the master, of the money which went through his

hands. It is noted that upon his elevation as a cardinal he bought the garments of state from his predecessor's waiter, to whom they had been given, and had his own bishop's seal struck purple, rejecting even the ecclésiastical which enabled him to do a little more good, be it ever so little, than he could otherwise have done.

Soon after entering the Vatican he ended many forms of ecclésiastical which had endured for centuries. For instance, a visitor had always to genuflect three times upon going into the presence of the pope, first upon crossing the threshold, then when halting, then at the pope's side. You should kiss the cross upon his right shoulder and remained kneeling all the time you were in his presence.

Pope Pius X. would have none of this. He invariably advanced to greet visitors and would then go and get a chair and chat in good old fashion, making one feel at home immediately. It naturally shocked all within the Vatican, but they soon got used to it.

An amusing incident occurred when a diplomat called, expecting of course all the old forms. He was surprised at first by the change, but soon recognized himself, had his interview and departed.

In the old form you always bowed yourself out of the pope's presence, but as Pius X. went to the door in arms with the diplomat, talking the while, he did not have the chance to



POPE PIUS X.

bow. At the threshold he turned to greet and to his surprise found the pope rearranging the chair about the room in the most matter of fact way. The pope smiled, and the diplomat retired amazed.

The ladies were indebted to him for banishing the form of having them bow themselves out of his presence. With their long trains this was ever a source of worry and not a little embarrassment to them. They didn't have to do it with Pius X. He invariably showed women out in a most chivalrous manner.

Any English yacht that cuts with the America's cup will be regarded as something of a freak.

If radium has been found in large quantities at Salvador there will probably be a revolution soon.

We shall never know whether John Lind is as wise as he is reputed to be unless he says something.

When you put off until tomorrow what you ought to do today, do you always do it on the morrow?

On the same night militants raided a dozen London theaters. How many people will scuffle for the Hissnight!

Victor Herbert says that this is rapidly becoming a musical nation. And Victor might add, a dancing nation.

England will now undertake to conquer and show us that we do not know a thing in the world about cricket.

It is an ironical, if poetical, fact that the word "starve" appears to have no rhyming companion save the word "carve."

A head boy in Detroit has been mulcted \$4,000 for breach of promise. Perhaps he'll take a tip to be more circumspect hereafter.

The swollen incomes have been over-estimated or underreported, according to the treasury department. In some cases both may be true.

If those French surgeons prove that a brain is not indispensable they will simply confirm what a lot of observing people have supposed all along.