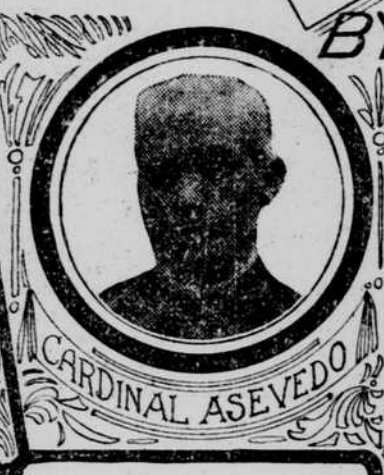


# BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE GREATEST PALACE ON EARTH

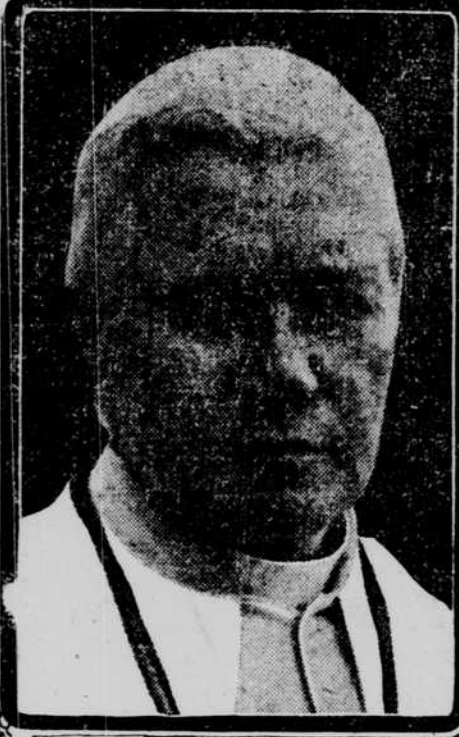
BY E. S. MERRIAM.



VATICAN POLICE  
IN  
FULL UNIFORM



CARDINAL AZEVEDO



POPE PIUS X



CARDINAL MERRY DE VAL  
THE PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE  
USING AN AMERICAN TYPE WRITER



THE FAMOUS  
SWISS GUARDS



THE POPE WITH HIS CONFIDENTIAL  
"MASTER OF THE CHAMBER"



THE POPE'S VALET



PIUS X BESTOWING THE PAPAL BLESSING  
UPON A GROUP OF KNEELING HUMBLE PILGRIMS.

HE reports from Rome show that recent anti-clerical demonstrations are leading to more and more vigilant caution on the part of the pope's household. The 11th of February, the fiftieth anniversary of St. Peter's, but, as that largest Christian church on earth easily holds some 50,000 people at once, and a crowd of that size would be practically uncontrollable in case of any sudden act of violence, the services were not held there at all, but inside the Vatican palace, where attendance was necessarily limited, so that cards of admission could be given out with much more strict knowledge as to who would use them.

The precautions seemed to optimistic people quite needless; but events reported within that week seemed to show that they were merely prudent. The anniversary of the execution of Giordano Bruno (he was put to death in Rome in 1600 for teaching unorthodox views), was made the occasion of impassioned speeches by socialist and revolutionary orators in the square where the execution took place. It is a mile or so from the Vatican, but Italians know Italians pretty well, so the government took no chances of letting any excited throng move over towards the papal palace; troops were stationed at various points to head off any attempt at incendiary demonstrations in that line, and at the Vatican itself extra guards were detailed for duty.

The Vatican itself, the greatest palace in the world, has seen, in times past, its share of exciting experiences, but it is not actually likely that it will see any more of the same tragic sort. American tourists in Rome have had pointed out to them a certain long, covered passageway, a sort of walled bridge, leading crookedly down from the papal palace to the ancient fortress by the Tiber known as the Castle of St. Angelo. In the middle ages, when the popes took a hand in European politics, more than one of St. Peter's vicars found that long, protected passageway a useful path to the safe shelter of the citadel. But to-day all is different. Nobody (outside half-civilized Russia) dreams of killing off heretics. And, on the other hand, the pope no longer controls European politics. It would be only a stupid piece of brutality for any fanatic to attempt personal violence against the present head of the Catholic church.

All the same, since one good way to avoid trouble is to be prepared for trouble, the papal household in the Vatican is admirably organized for the security of the great palace and its treasures and its occupants. And, as at least one in ten of all the people of the United States sends money every year to the Vatican (not directly, but through church offerings), it is of interest to know something about the maintenance of the vast establishment out there near the western limits of the historic city of Rome.

As most people know, the palace is actually not one building but a huge, rambling group of buildings. The adjoining park is surrounded by a high wall which once upon a time formed part of a system of fortifications, but which at present merely looks imposing. It could in fact be demolished without the slightest difficulty if a body of men wanted to make trouble.

Outside the main entrance to the palace on St. Peter's square one sees a few Italian policemen—ordinarily no great display of protection, but just enough to remind the passerby that the spot has special importance. And curiously enough, those Roman policemen are practically frontier guards; for the Vatican itself and its grounds are not a part of the kingdom of Italy at all, but under the separate sovereignty of the pope. Inside the Vatican doorway, the king of Italy has technically no more authority than Kaiser Wilhelm or the president of the United States, i. e., no authority at all. On the threshold and in a spacious corridor beyond are always stationed certain defenders of the palace household, the famous Swiss guards. They are gayly clad—indeed their appearance suggests a pageant rather than a battlefield, but it would not be safe to infer that they are mere stage supernumeraries. They have stern traditions of heroism to live up to. In 1527 a band of just such guards wearing just such gorgeous toggerly held their ground for six

hours against invading enemies, fighting till the very last man of their gallant number lay helpless or dead on the palace floor.

Still another organized body for the armed defense of the precinct is that of the Palatine (i. e., "Palace") guards, a small regiment of special militia living in the barracks on the premises. Ordinarily their functions are nothing more serious than those of police, ready to keep a crowd in decorous stillness or decorous movement when any large number of outsiders attend a service like that in honor of St. John Chrysostom, already referred to.

But political enmity and religious-political mob-violence are not the only dangers against which the Vatican must needs be guarded. Commonplace, vulgar thievery has to be considered, for, besides being the strategic center of the greatest organization on earth—the Catholic church—it is the repository of art treasures of immense importance and practically incalculable value. We have heard much within the last few years about thefts of superb canvases, embroidered vestments and the like from other Italian palaces. The Vatican library and its galleries of sculpture, paintings, tapestries and other valuables would be a mine of wealth almost beyond a vandal's dreams, were it not for the fact that the most valuable things of all are likewise so famous that they could by no possibility be sold to any appreciative purchaser without instant detection. To offer for sale the Codex Vaticanus (the oldest existing MS. of the Bible), or Raphael's Transfiguration, or the Apollo Belvedere, would be a good deal like negotiating the sale of London bridge. But any of these priceless things might be damaged beyond repair by a malicious fanatic or a madman. It is partly to prevent such a possibility as this that the palace maintains a body of police known as carabinieri or rendarmos. They are likewise splendid to behold, especially on a full-dress occasion, when they appear with white buckskin trousers and towering helmets of black bearskin, like the drum-major in an American street parade.

One enemy there is who absolutely cannot be kept off the premises, but who must be perpetually followed scholarship, shrewd knowledge of human nature and de-

and watched—that is Father Time. The Vatican buildings were all solidly constructed in their day, but the most modern part of all, the so-called "new wing" of the library, is nearly a hundred years old, and some of the buildings had stood for centuries before Columbus discovered America. Cardinal Azevedo, who lives in the palace, has charge of the immense pile of buildings as regards their material repair and preservation. He keeps this, remodeling that, and, in general, fighting the universal tendency of man's handwork to fall to pieces. His responsibilities are well met, too. At least, every part of the Vatican to which an outsider is ever allowed access is kept in excellent order, and even steadily improved in point of modern convenience. Like all Italian palaces of mediæval construction, it was originally built with no provision for winter heating except an occasional fireplace. But the apartments used for residence by the pope and his household are now heated by a modern system of pipes and radiators and lighted by electricity, with speaking tubes and telephones galore.

The scrub women who keep the place clean are all men. So are, of course, the cooks, the chambermaids, all the long train of people doing the housework of the palace. No women enter the palace except as guests, to attend some service, or, as devout pilgrims, to kneel for the papal blessing. The pope's sisters, though they often call to see him, live in apartments some distance away.

In the days of Pius IX, about 2,000 people lived in the Vatican, and did more or less work of one sort and another. Old Pope Leo XIII. cut down the number, and Pius X. reduced it still more; but even now the list is necessarily long, and a schedule of the functions of the various individuals would be impracticably complicated. The most important member of the whole household, as regards the causing of enmity or the maintenance of peace with the rest of the world, is the papal secretary of state, Cardinal Merry de Val. He is one of the most brilliant young diplomats in Europe. Through him the papacy shapes and conducts its exceedingly delicate relations with all the world's political powers. On his broad fateful problems in nearly every country in the civilized

world, intent policy depend at present, to a great extent world. Just how far his strong personality and the equally strong though very different personality of the pope pull together in these matters, nobody knows. Or, if anybody does know, he is most unlikely to tell. Many people are inclined, with or without reason, to believe that His Excellency Merry de Val is personally responsible in great measure for the tragic doings in France last year, when the conflict of church and state reminded outsiders of the old problem. "What would happen if an irresistible force should meet an immovable object?" The answer was "Concussion."

Of course it is not to be expected that a household of such a size should be quite free from domestic wire-pulling. Those in a position to tell interesting tales in this line are too discreet to bring their scandal up to date, but it does no harm to repeat gossip of Pius X.'s imperious predecessor. As gossip goes, the majordomo of the Vatican, in office at the time Leo XIII. was elected, had never been a friend to the great man during his cardinalship; it was, however, the majordomo's duty to present to the new pope the papal skull-cap of white silk which replaced the cardinal's cap of red. It had long been the custom for the acting majordomo the discarded red cap, as a hint that he would soon be promoted to a cardinalship. But Pope Leo, on accepting the new cap of white, calmly pocketed the old red one, saying, "The pope forgives but does not forget." If the story be true, it only goes to show that, as Artemus Ward used to say: "Must folks are human."

The officer of the household with whom ordinary travelers and pilgrims have to do, at least through correspondence, is Monsignor Bisleti, the "master of the chambers," who receives and passes upon all requests for audiences and interviews with the pope himself. He, of course, has to have a secretary of his own, for the work of his department is not only perplexing in its delicate responsibility, but oftentimes enormous in amount. On the whole, though individuals are bound to be disappointed now and then, he manages to give an enormous number of people from every part of the earth, non-Catholics as well as Catholics, the desired opportunity to look directly into the kindly face of the spiritual father of 230,000,000 souls.

Pius X. himself is singularly free from any sort of cheap desire to glorify his own personal dignity. As most Catholics, and some Protestants, know, his recent issuance and insistence on autocratic edicts in the field of theology are strictly in his official and technical capacity as head of the Catholic church. Any great emphasis on his personal greatness bores or even pains him.

Once in a great while, on special occasions of ecclesiastical state, the pope puts aside his own preference for plain simplicity by allowing himself to be carried into St. Peter's in a splendid chair of red velvet and gold, borne on the shoulders of ten stalwart chair-bearers (Sedarii), likewise superb in red and gold. A swarm of obsequious body-servants he would frankly regard as a nuisance. But, naturally, an old man with an immense amount of work to do ought to save his time and strength for what is most important, so he does have a personal attendant (a valet) to do little things for his personal convenience—such things as a wife or daughter might do if he were just a nice old gentleman in a modest American home.

In any case, even if he walks with democratic matter-of-factness on his own feet, his appearance before any large gathering of people is always accompanied by that of a number of the noble guards. These are some of the most distinguished figures to be seen at any papal function; there are 60 or 70 enrolled, though not all are on duty at once. Every man is the son of a noble Italian family, a man of independent fortune, who pays all his own expenses and lives in his own home, but gives volunteer service as a matter of personal devotion to the church. The men present a fine, soldierly appearance and, in their stunning uniforms, with helmets of steel and gold bands across their breasts, they form one of the most picturesque parts of a papal pageant.

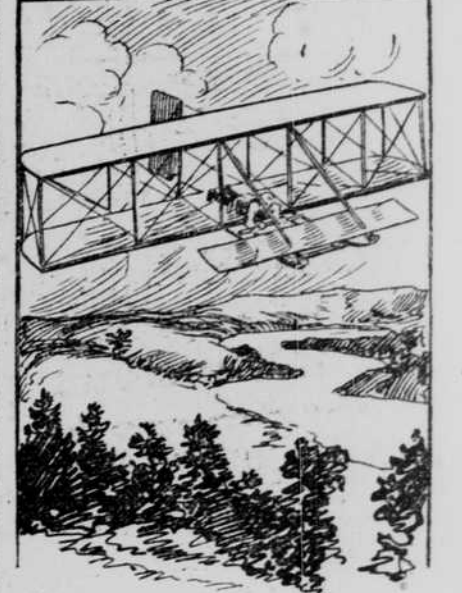
E. S. MERRIAM.

## WRIGHTS HAVE NEW MACHINE.

Air Navigators Can Replace Broken Aeroplane with Stronger One.

Mauteo, N. C.—The Wright brothers are not disheartened over the recent accident to their aeroplane. They have been using their old machine here, and it is learned that they have a new and stronger machine already built in Dayton and will return here with that in August to go on with their experiments.

It was also learned from official sources that the flight interrupted by the accident was designed to be the most important performance ever at-



Wright Brothers' Airship at It Appeared Before Accident.

tempted by an aeroplane. It was to have been an endurance test in which the operator expected to remain in the air one hour and twenty minutes. That would have meant a flight of about 80 miles. In the government test next August the Wright machine will have to remain in the air an hour, but will not be required to cover as great a distance as was contemplated in the unfortunate performance.

One or both of the brothers will go to Europe within a few weeks, but they will be back here with their new machine next August.

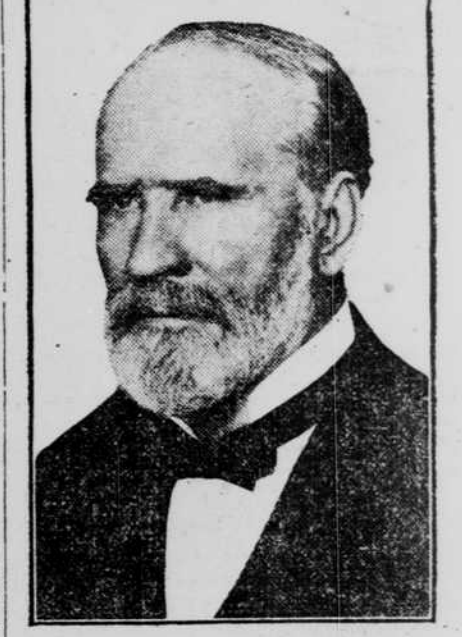
The Wright machine was constructed with the idea of selling it to the government. The body is 40 feet long and 80 feet wide, making a total buoying surface of 640 feet. It is said to be capable of carrying four ordinary men with ease.

## WILSON TO QUIT CABINET.

Secretary of Agriculture Says He Will Resign.

Washington.—James Wilson, secretary of agriculture, told some friends the other day that he has decided to resign.

Mr. Wilson holds two records as cabinet officer. He is the only one since the foundation of the government who has served 11 years continuously, and the only member of a cabinet who has served through four administrations. The secretary said that he has worked hard, building up his department from one of compar-



James Wilson.

atively unimportance to a department in which the whole country relies.

Mr. Wilson entered President McKinley's cabinet March 5, 1897, and has been in the government—official family continuously since that time.

His friends tried to persuade him to stay at least through the president's term. While he would not promise to reconsider his determination he said that he would not resign until he had consulted them again.

If Secretary Wilson goes out there is little doubt that Gifford Pinchot will be put in his place. Mr. Pinchot is United States forester.

## Boats with Famous Names.

The steamers of the American line and the Atlantic Transport line are named after American cities and characters, and the Scandinavian-American line has seen fit to call one of its best steamers the United States. The Hamburg-American steamer Pennsylvania was the only vessel with an American name in the company's New York and Hamburg fleet until the Amerika came out, with her various decks named after President Roosevelt, the Kaiser, Cleveland and Washington. Then came the Kaiserin, August Victoria, with more decks named after Americans, after which the line brought out the steamers President Grant and President Lincoln. The Anchor line has called its latest steamer the California.

## Theories as to the Pyramids.

Two principal theories have been advanced for the erection of the pyramids of Egypt. One, that each king, on ascending the throne, began to build a pyramid as a tomb and monument to himself. This was usually laid out upon a comparatively small scale, so that if the builder had a short reign his tomb might be complete. As time passed successive layers were added and the size of the monument was thus proportioned to the length of the ruler's reign. This theory is combated by Petrie, who believed that each pyramid was begun and carried out upon a definite design of size and arrangement.

# Wherein Modern Marriage Is Usually a Matter of Barter

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Even the superficial student of customs knows that the idea of matrimony as a two-sided affair in which woman has as much interest as man, with her individual tastes as much to be regarded, is scarcely two generations old. Even now, marrying is not exclusively the result of devotion of man to woman and of woman to man. Marrying formerly rested wholly with the man as it yet does among dependent women. Probably when the primal man rapped over the head and carried off the woman who attracted him, he was showing as much sentiment as was needful, and her opinion was not sought. The girl who escaped such masculine attention was an unfortunate, despised by her companions and by herself, too, that she was allowed to walk in safety.

After clubbing went out of style, and barter became the rule, it was still the male who selected, and the female who accepted the result without demur. With the twentieth century the form of bartering has changed somewhat, for do we not see our rich girls becoming buyers of dukes, and other titled men not too proud to be sold in as open a market as if put up to auction? Indeed, throughout the world, in civilized and uncivilized lands, marriage remains more a matter of sale than of sentiment, but the reaction has started which will some day make all of this entirely impossible.

When there was open to women no career but matrimony, to which any respect was attached, it was natural that she should marry as she had opportunity, all the more that she realized so little before entering upon it what matrimony meant. It was equally natural that the woman who did not marry presumably because not chosen, should become an object of pity and scorn, for by being left she was proved lacking in those feminine attributes which attracted men—she had not been true to her sex, so to speak. Thus, "old maid" became a stigma to avoid at any cost of one's feelings if one possessed more pride than heart; and many a woman did, and many a woman has married, not for love or even for a home, but that on her tombstone might be written "Wife of." It scarcely seems that such a motive could inspire one to so vital a step. Yet it did, and strong-

## Barrier Still Between Them

Unkind Trick Played by Fate on Fond But Unfortunate Lovers.

"Bishop Fowler used to tell about a young couple.

"John Smith was a Presbyterian. Hannah Jones was a Baptist. They hesitated about marrying because they feared that in later life, when the little ones came, religious disputes might arise. Thus the years passed. Neither would renounce his church. John Smith grew bald and Hannah Jones developed lines about her

## Whether by Clubbing or Purchase Man Until Recent Times Had Sole Voice in the Marriage Compact—Women Now Have Hand in Bargaining and Multitude Sell Themselves.

By DORA MAY MORRELL

longer any ground for delaying our union further. I united myself this day with the Baptist church.—John.

The Happiest Children. The happiest children are those who have happy mothers. The young life which grows up in the shadow of a discontented, repining and gloomy mother is like a plant watered by kindly dew. It is apt to be dwarfed and stunted. Even when things are crooked and temptations to be harsh come, let the mother, for her sons' and daughters' sake, try to be happy.

## Entering a Demurrer.

"Talk about the superiority of mind over matter!" said the argumentative boarder. "It's just the other way. If you want to be sure not to forget a thing you don't trust it to your memory. You take a pencil and a slip of paper and make a memorandum of it."

Chivalrous Chicago. In Chicago more than in any other place is woman regarded in the light of a thing of beauty and a joy forever. There is hardly a man in Chicago who does not esteem feminine love as something beyond price—something to live for, to strive for, to suffer for, and, if necessary, to die for.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

## Sleighs Used All Year.

Sleighs are used all the year round in Madeira. The lichens which grow abundantly on the stone-paved streets make them slippery, and at the same time prevent dust. It has been suggested that the dust problem might be solved elsewhere by cultivating these lichens.