



# POPE PIUS X.

Incidents Connected with the Election of Sarto, Patriarch of Venice, to Succeed Pope Leo XIII.

Giuseppe Sarto, patriarch of Venice, has been chosen as pope to succeed Leo XIII. The new pope has chosen the name of Pius X. The conclave of cardinals remained in session for four days in the effort to choose Leo's successor. The story of the ballots is told by the Associated press in this way:

"When the first ballot was taken it showed that the sacred college was divided into two groups, the stronger one for Rampolla and the lesser one for Serafino Vannutelli. The other votes were scattered, but included four for Sarto.

"On the subsequent ballots, while the two principal parties were losing ground, Sarto gradually gained, drawing strength from both ends and the middle until the ballot on Monday afternoon, when his vote had increased to thirty-seven, within six of the necessary two-thirds. When the result of this ballot was announced in the conclave Cardinal Sarto was so overcome with emotion and so touched by the unlooked-for confidence reposed in him that he could no longer control his feelings and, to the surprise of all, he broke down, declaring that such responsibility and honor were not for him, and that he must refuse it, if offered. Tears rolled down his cheeks and he seemed firm in his determination to refuse the dignity. He was so palpably sincere that consternation reigned in the conclave, and the cardinals spent the whole evening and much of the night in convincing him that his election was the will of providence and that he must accept. Several times he almost fainted and had to be revived by the use of salts. He seemed happy but broken down, even after all the other candidates had retired, and, on the final ballot, he looked a statue of resignation. Cardinal Casetta, as scrutineer, was reading out the votes. When forty-two votes had been recorded for the patriarch of Venice the scrutineer arose and lifted his red zucchetto, saying: 'We have elected a pontiff.'

"But from many sides cardinals cried out, 'Continue.' As the vote approached fifty, however, the cardinals, as of one accord, surrounded the new pontiff and, according to tradition, demanded to know if he would accept the pontificate.

"Cardinal Sarto's lips trembled so that he could hardly articulate, but, after a visible effort, he said:

"If this cup cannot pass from me—"

"There he paused, but the cardinals around him insisted that it was necessary for him to answer 'yes' or 'no.' Thereupon he replied firmly 'yes.'"

While the selection of Sarto was very generally a surprise, it is now recalled that early in April, 1903, Pope Leo in a conversation with Father Perosi, the Italian composer, said in speaking of Cardinal Sarto: "Hold him dear, Perosi, as in the future he will be able to do much for you. We firmly believe he will be our successor."

The Associated press gives a sketch of the new pope as follows:

"Giuseppe Sarto was born in Riese, diocese of Treviso, June 2, 1835, and was created cardinal by Leo XIII. at the consistory of June 12, 1893, receiving the title of S. Bernardo delle Terme. He is also patriarch of Venice since June, 1893, and bishop of Mantua. He belongs to the ecclesiastical congregations of bishops and regulars, sacred rights, indulgences and sacred relics.

"Cardinal Sarto enjoys great popularity in his diocese, and is honored by all for his purity, for the strict uprightness of his life, and for liberal ideas. He is a modest and agreeable man, highly cultivated, very kind-hearted, still strong and robust in spite of his 68 years. He has never taken great part in the political and public life of the church; but divided his time between study and good works. Although most faithful to the holy see he was presented to the king and queen of Italy in Venice. He may be considered among the more liberal members of the Italian episcopate and sacred college. He is rather timid in expressing an opinion. It is said that Leo XIII. always thought very highly of him, and sided with him on one occasion when Sarto disapproved of Rampolla's policy.

"He has been known for many years as one of the greatest preachers in the church."

It is reported that when Sarto had been chosen, he rose from his knees and with a face full of sadness and addressing his fellow cardinals,

said: "It is a cross that I receive from you."

Sarto was a great friend of King Humbert, father of the present king of Italy, and it is believed in some quarters that his election will make considerable difference in the relations between the church and the Italian government. At the same time some were disappointed because of the spot chosen by the new pope for the presentation of his first benediction to the world. According to tradition, if the pope should extend his hand in blessing over Rome, from without St. Peter's, it would signify a new attitude on the part of the church toward the government. It seemed that the assemblage understood that this course would be adopted, but they were disappointed.

Cardinal Gibbons, speaking to a representative of the Associated press, said that the election of Cardinal Sarto had produced the best impression on the sacred college, because, being a man of such piety, tact, and culture, he was best fitted to be the head of the church at the present time. Interest has been revived in the veto power supposed to be vested in Austria, Spain and Italy. Austria is not presumed to be partial to Venetians. One of the cardinals, speaking to a correspondent for the Associated press, says that no attempt has been made by Austria, Spain or Italy to exercise the veto power, and that the college of cardinals was greatly divided as to the continuance of that tradition. This cardinal said that a Venetian might be objectionable to Austria, but we fail to see why that should be so because the ancient enmity between Venice and Austria was confined to a small section of the Italian people. Besides, Austria was always Italy's ally and there should be no misgivings regarding the future course of Pius X. who has kept himself out of politics, and so far as this cardinal knew, had not identified himself with any political move.

Americans enjoyed the privilege of being first among those of many other countries who followed to be presented to the pope. John J. McGrane of New York and Father Lynch of Niagara university of Buffalo conducted the American pilgrimage. The Associated press cablegram tells the story of the experience of the Americans in this way:

"Cardinal Gibbons had been asked yesterday to try to arrange for the reception of the Americans and had promised to do his best, at the same time explaining how unprecedented it would be for a pope the day after his election to receive a foreign pilgrimage when there were scores of high dignitaries who had not yet been admitted, including even the diplomatic body. Nevertheless he used his influence with the happiest result and secured the consent of the pope to receive his fellow-countrymen. Their luggage was hastily brought back from the station in order that they might appear in proper apparel, and at 5:45 this afternoon all were at the bronze doors of the vatican. They were met by Monsignor Kennedy, rector of the American college, whose presence was quite sufficient to make the Swiss guard step back, present arms and give entrance to all. They trooped up the high stairway and through the corridors, bending their heads to pass through the openings in the walls which had been erected for the conclave. Bricks were still lying on the flagstones. Through the beautiful loggia of Raphael they passed to the unique hall of inscriptions, where a halt was called. After a considerable wait there was murmured 'Hush, hush,' and two Swiss guards entered from a corridor. Before the pilgrims could quite realize it, the pope stood among them.

"Pius X. is a little taller than Cardinal Gibbons, giving the impression of being a much larger man, as he is inclined to stoutness. He has abundant gray hair, with no sign of baldness, dark, clear eyes, handsome features and a magnificent voice, low in tone, to which is added a peculiar grace, due to his musical Venetian accent. His whole person emanated great benignity. He walked slowly, but with the firmness of a young man, down the long kneeling line, accompanied by Cardinal Gibbons and Monsignor Kennedy, and gave to each of the pilgrims as he passed his hand to be kissed. He spoke a few words to almost everyone. Pius X. was arrayed completely in white, without a gleam of color except that which sparkled from the huge emerald on his finger. Cardinal Gibbons was on his right in red robes and Monsignor Kennedy on his left in purple. They were preceded by Swiss guards with halberds and followed by members of the noble guard. The moving group was set off by the

kneeling women, who were all in black, their womanliness made more womanly by the black lace veils which hung from their hair. The men wore dress suits and the priests black gowns. Pope Pius X. appeared to be much interested when Father Lynch presented to him a box containing a white zucchetto, saying that 'We would be extremely gratified if your holiness would accept this gift in exchange for the one you wear.'

"I will cheerfully do so," the pope replied.

"Thereupon Monsignor Bisleti lifted the zucchetto which the pope wore from his head and replaced it with the one which had been presented by Father Lynch.

"Mr. McCrane handed to Pius X. the offerings which the pilgrims had hastily put together after luncheon today. The pope spoke especially to the members of the Lante family of Philadelphia, Rev. John E. Burke, pastor of the church of St. Benedict the Moor of New York, and Father Wall, who expressly represented Archbishop Earley, and to Rev. James Roger Matthews of Washington.

"To Father Burke he gave a special benediction for the colored people. Occasionally, as the pope passed along, he laid his hand upon the head of one of the pilgrims. When Pius reached the persons who waved two flags yesterday at St. Peter's, who were carrying them today, he exclaimed:

"Cara, cara, America, dear America—forty-four stars, eh?" When he reached the last person in the line he turned and, while all the pilgrims knelt, he gave the apostolic blessing, ending with the words: 'I recommend myself to your pious prayers.'

"It was a moment of intense emotion and scarcely was an eye dry.

"Cardinal Gibbons, upon leaving the vatican, said that he had been delighted to present the American pilgrimage to the new pope under such happy circumstances."

## When Did the Change Occur?

The Philadelphia Press, republican, says: "If American currency had been sound in 1893 and 1894 panic would have been prevented here then. It came because no one could be certain as to the standard of value."

Will the Press be good enough to point out the particular piece of legislation in which a change has been wrought in our currency system since the 1893 and 1894 panic?

The financiers insist that the republican party has not fulfilled its pledges with respect to "currency reform" and they say that the act of March, 1900, whereby the secretary of the treasury was given authority to exchange one dollar for another whenever such exchange became necessary in order to maintain the parity, provides for the redemption in gold of the silver dollar no such authority as any secretary of the treasury would dare to act upon.

While the Press says that there could be no certainty as to the standard of value in 1893 and 1894, it intimates that there is certainty as to the standard of value at this time. For the benefit of its readers, it should point out just how this remarkable change was brought about.

## A Newspaper Lottery.

The Nashville American is not only republican in its views, but it is willing to demoralize its readers by cultivating the gambling spirit among them. A reader of The Commoner has sent in a letter issued by the Weekly American, April 4, inviting subscribers to enter into a guessing contest—the thing guessed upon to be the amount of cotton received at all United States ports between September 1, 1902, and May 1, 1903, (the time is now past). As there was no way of ascertaining the exact amount of bales it was so largely a guess that the contest does not differ essentially in principle from the old lottery or wheel of fortune. It is not strange that a paper that supports a Wall street financial policy should urge its subscribers to speculative money-making rather than stimulate them to the honest accumulation of money by legitimate means. The American offered a number of free estimates to agents on terms stated in the letter. When it can spare time from the denunciation of Mr. Bryan as a disturber of harmony, will it give a few words in defense of its lottery, from a moral standpoint?