

LIFE OF THE PEASANT POPE

Pius X Has Shown that He Has a Mind of His Own.

HIS JOKE ON A COMMUNITY OF NUNS

Lives Very Simply and Spends Much of His Time in Prayer—Reforms He Has Instituted.

ROME, March 21.—When Cardinal Barbo was elected to the chair of St. Peter nobody was as much surprised as the cardinal himself. In fact, that the thought of his being chosen pope was far from his mind is shown by the reply he gave to a friend on the eve of his departure from Venice to attend the election. He was asked if he thought the election would be a laborious one.

"No," he answered, "I think the election will be a short one. We will put Peter in chains perhaps on the very first day, crown him pontiff as soon as possible and hasten back to our dioceses."

All this took place almost as he had prophesied, with the exception that the patriarch of Venice never returned to his diocese, but remained and will remain until death releases him, a voluntary prisoner in the Vatican, a sovereign, styled, "Father of princes and kings, ruler of the orb of earth and vicar of our Savior Jesus Christ," but whose kingdom has dwindled to a palace and a garden.

Preferred His Quiet Life. Pius X has been a much misapprehended man. His chagrin at being elected pope was apparent, especially on the day of his coronation, when born aloft in the sedia gestatoria. To a man who has lived for fifty years a quiet life, performing his duties toward his flock with patience and simplicity, the sudden rush into public notice was nothing short of paralyzing. And even now, after three years of pontificate, he continues the simple trend of his earlier days. Under Leo XIII the papal court felt that all hopes of restoration of temporal power were not lost. Leo himself was the personification of these hopes, and at all public functions one felt that he looked on a king in exile.

Independent and Firm. Pius X has a will of his own, he is practical and an enemy to political cobwebbery. Behind his kindness of demeanor he has firmness which once roused cannot be changed. The first instance when the pope asserted his independence of action occurred, shortly after his election, in regard to the dispensing of tickets for the functions in St. Peter's. Formerly it was the custom to erect tribunes or boxes on both sides of the high altar during Holy week and at other functions. Tickets were much sought after, and often it was possible to obtain them for a consideration from hotel porters. The sale of tickets proved highly profitable to many a needy prelate, and the bartering for them amounted to nothing less than a scandal. Pius X abolished the tribunes and made it a rule that when any function was to take place in the basilica all alike should have the same privileges.

The choice of the secretary of state was entirely the pope's. Cardinal Merry del Val represented to the pope what he was in need of, viz: a young clever prelate versed in the ways of the world, and hence also in diplomacy and a good linguist, yet having the spiritual good of the church at heart. The choice is said to have been unfortunate, especially as Cardinal Merry del Val is unjustly blamed for not having averted the church crisis in France. But Pius X is evidently of a different opinion, as he reposes implicit confidence in his secretary of state.

His Politics and Policy. The predominant influence acquired by Cardinal Rampolla during the pontificate had created for him many enemies in the Sacred college. His unflinching Franco-phile policy, which led to disastrous results even before the death of Leo XIII, made him lose prestige among his colleagues, the French cardinals included, and his determined opposition to the political union of Italy was notorious.

Pius X, as parish priest, bishop and cardinal, succeeded in abstaining from that intransigence which is characteristic of Italian clericalism and only serves to widen the breach between church and state to the prejudice of the true interests of religion and morality, and as pope he meant to initiate a new policy, hardly differing from that followed by his predecessor at first, but gradually becoming characterized and distinguished by the simple faith, the quiet virtues and the abundant charity of heart of the son of the Ried farmer who was thrust sweeping on the papal throne.

The pope's first step in this direction was the appointment of the new secretary of state. Pius X remains a peasant at heart. He has succeeded as pope just as he had succeeded as patriarch of Venice. His only object in life is to be good and live like his humble forefathers, quietly and simply without ostentation. He spends a great part of his time in prayer. Some time ago an American prelate forgot in the pope's library some objects of devotion which the pope had blessed during his private audience. The audience was just over; so the prelate thought he would return to the library and get what he had forgotten. The door was ajar and through the opening he saw the pope on his knees wrapped in prayer. The pope's prayers were interrupted by a chamberlain, who ushered in more people for the next audience and who subsequently told the prelate that it was the custom of the holy father to spend the intervals between audiences in prayer.

Routine of the Day. The pope is a very busy man. He rises at 6. After a summary toilet he goes to his private chapel, where his chamberlain dresses him for the mass, which he celebrates slowly and with great devotion. After a frugal breakfast he is ready for his day's work. The whole forenoon is spent in audiences, that of the cardinal secretary of state being generally the first one. Private and public audiences of princes, pilgrims and people of note or of position follow until 1, sometimes 1 o'clock, when the pope has luncheon. His cook is a Venetian, but the cooking is limited to the plainest fare, on account of the pope's old malady, gout. The pope is generally in good health, and as a rule, he reports about his ailments as exaggerated, but least his doctors' task prove a sinuous he cheerfully submits to being dieted. Quite recently, after a slight attack of gout, when asked about his health the pope re-

plied: "Thank God, I am well, but I am quite used to the report that I am dying." After luncheon the pope walks in his garden until sunset, when he grants more audiences, sometimes as late as 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening. After dinner he chats with the members of his household, and of late some entertainment had been provided during these "conversations familiaris" as they are called at the Vatican, owing to talking machine presented to the pope by an American Catholic of Baltimore. The pope enjoyed listening to the music, sacred and profane, but some of the noble guards who patronize music halls made the startling discovery that several Neapolitan songs, which were quite unintelligible to the pope, were not fit to be heard in the papal apartments and Mr. Maggioromo hastened to expurgate the gramophone's repertoire.

His Joke with the Nuns. Pius X has a keen sense of humor and enjoys a joke hugely. Close to the Vatican there is a small community of nuns, mostly very old, the youngest member over 80. A socialist newspaper in an anti-clerical article attacked all religious female communities and by way of a joke said that the nuns of this particular convent were in the habit of riding bicycles. Some kind-hearted friend graciously showed them the article in which he hurled his great trepidation to Cardinal Merry del Val, begging him to assure the holy father that they had been calumniated and that they had never in all their lives ridden a bicycle.

The cardinal was highly amused at the incident, but in tranquility the good sisters and promised that the holy father would not give credit to the story. The same day the cardinal recounted the story to the pope. A month or two later the nuns were received in audience by the pope. As soon as they entered in his presence their friend graciously showed them the article in which he hurled his great trepidation to Cardinal Merry del Val, begging him to assure the holy father that they had been calumniated and that they had never in all their lives ridden a bicycle. The cardinal was highly amused at the incident, but in tranquility the good sisters and promised that the holy father would not give credit to the story. The same day the cardinal recounted the story to the pope. A month or two later the nuns were received in audience by the pope. As soon as they entered in his presence their friend graciously showed them the article in which he hurled his great trepidation to Cardinal Merry del Val, begging him to assure the holy father that they had been calumniated and that they had never in all their lives ridden a bicycle.

Being the effect his words had produced on the sisters, who with bowed heads, still on their knees, were expecting nothing short of excommunication, the faintly smiled: "I am only joking, my sisters. I knew it was all a calumny, but I wanted to tease you a little."

MILK A VITAL NECESSITY

An Enthusiastic Tribute to the Fluid of Life, Fresh, Skimmed or Clabbered.

Did you ever reflect that but for milk there could be no human race at all? Everything starts with milk. All men and women must first be babies, and milk is the only food that a baby can take for a long time after birth. No substitute is possible. Its little anatomy is not equal to the task of absorbing any kind of solid food. It must have milk, warm milk, fresh from the mother's breast, or there will be no germ, no embryo, no baby out of which to make a man or woman. Not only is milk indispensable for the baby, but it is the best of all foods for adults. Nothing else equals it in wholesomeness, digestibility, sustaining and invigorating power, therefore, that the dairy is such an important industry. No wonder that countless billions of dollars are invested in it and countless thousands of people engaged in its various branches. The world could not move a inch without milk. In fact, there could be no world, so far as animal life is concerned, without this elemental, this primordial, this all-pervading element of nutrition.

Josh Billings used to start one of his lectures by saying that he had heard a great deal on the subject of milk, but the best thing he had ever seen on it was cream. This is good, of course, as our quaint philosopher observed, but it is by no means all. Even skim milk is valuable, much more so than once supposed. Formerly it was thrown away as worthless, now every farmer knows that it possesses fattening power. Nothing is better for poultry food. They dry it now and use it as desiccated albumen. Though much has been taken away by the skimming or separating process, much remains of value. It is used in the mechanic arts as a factor of numerous processes.

Combs, buttons and sizing for paper, straw and felt hats, glazing and finishing leather and textile commodities are the results of skim milk in its various forms. It is used in the dyeing process, much remains of value. It is used in the mechanic arts as a factor of numerous processes. Combs, buttons and sizing for paper, straw and felt hats, glazing and finishing leather and textile commodities are the results of skim milk in its various forms. It is used in the dyeing process, much remains of value. It is used in the mechanic arts as a factor of numerous processes.

The late Myron Reed was fond of remarking that the best things were those that were cheapest and most plentiful. He meant water, grass, air, and milk. It is not the things that much money is necessary to buy the so-called luxuries, that are the best and most palatable. We could do without the imported luxury entirely, but we cannot do without milk any more than we can do without the atmosphere about us. Aside, therefore, from its commercial value, the money that is in it, it needs no argument to prove the desirability of milk. It is destined to grow more and more in importance. Mare's milk is popular in some countries, fluid of the goat still more so in others; but this country prefers the cow, and she seems to fully answer all purposes. We can do without other things, might dispense with most entirely and thus ruin the packers; might even let most of the grains go as food, but milk we must have. There is no way of figuring or calculating a civilization, no possibility of progress or even existence, without the wonderful agent that exudes from the udders of cows.—American Farmer.

Capers of a Busy Camel. Paris has been laughing at the antics of a drunken camel which slept in a police station. A Turk was leading the camel along the boulevards, when without any warning it began to walk sideways. This frightened some omnibus horses, and they jumped aside. The omnibus ran into a coal cart; the coal cart bumped into a hand cart; the hand cart crashed into a small wine shop, breaking many bottles; the wine dealer called the police. The police took the Turk and the camel to the police station. It was found necessary to remove one of the doors to allow the camel to enter. While this was being done a kind wine shop keeper gave the camel a bowl of wine, which it drank cheerfully. Finally the camel, in a gay mood, was led inside the police station, when it promptly lay down on the floor and went to sleep. All attempts to waken it failed. In the morning the camel, quite sober, was loaded on a cart and conveyed to the asylum for stray animals at Gennevilliers.

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