

again. For nine years he had been a humble curate; for nine years he had been Parish Priest; for nine years he had been a Canon of Treviso; for nine years he was to be a Bishop; then for nine years a Cardinal and Patriarch. It is worthy of note that amongst his works during his stay at Mantua was a Manual on the Practice of Politeness, which he addressed to the young clergy of the diocese. He was a staunch friend and supporter of the Catholic press. Charity distinguished his Episcopacy. At this time of his life he was much sought after as a preacher, and his services were readily given to neighboring dioceses. The far-seeing Cardinal Parocchi described him at this time as the best bishop in those parts of Italy. A good Bishop who did his work thoroughly, and was most remarkable for his devotion to the poor, sums up the experience which Mantua had of Joseph Sarto.

CARDINAL-PATRIARCH OF VENICE.

In 1893 he was created Cardinal by Leo XIII., and made Patriarch of Venice. For nine years, as has been said before, he remained in Venice in that exalted office. He is, therefore, it is almost needless to say, one of the best known of the Popes, as to his personal appearance, for Venice is one of the most visited cities in the world, and travellers thither had endless opportunities of seeing the illustrious Patriarch. During all those eventful years, so full of honors for him, he never changed the absolute simplicity of his life. His sisters kept house for him; his fare was of the humblest kind; his acts of piety of the most unostentatious description. He still devoted his greatest care to the poor. He loved to officiate in the poor parishes. He is probably as well versed as any man alive in what has come to be known as the social problem. Venice has a housing question, and its industrial questions, and she has had her strikes—Queen of the Adriatic though she be. And the Patriarch studied those questions, and indeed studied the whole social question, so as to become far more than a mere theorist upon it. It will not, therefore, be surprising if, following in the footsteps of his predecessor of immortal memory, Pope Pius X. should enrich the literature of the democracy and voice their just claims and rights in no uncertain way.

VISIBLE HEAD OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.

We have already told the story of how Giuseppe Sarto, Cardinal-Patriarch of Venice, was appointed successor to Pope Leo XIII., of holy and happy memory.

Pope Pius is in a notable way a man of many parts. As a pulpit orator he has not many equals. His preaching has a potent charm and power. His fine presence gave him a great advantage, and he is blessed with a voice of more than ordinary effectiveness. As has been seen, as student, priest, and Bishop he worked with untiring industry. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that he acquired a thorough mastery of the details of administration. That he has the courage of a reformer he proved in more than one of his ecclesiastical charges. Music is one of his hobbies, and Church Music one of the subjects upon which he speaks with the very greatest authority. His influence upon Church Music has indeed already been felt all over the world, and it is not by any means unlikely that his Pontificate will rank in musical as well as ecclesiastical history as a noteworthy one. While at Mantua he took up the question of reform of Church Music in the most thorough-going style. He is an intense admirer of Palestrina, and of his school, and insists upon praise and devotion being the distinguishing characteristics of all music rendered during the sacred services of the Church. It was he who discovered the eminent priest-composer Perosi. Recognising the genius of Perosi, the Patriarch sent him to the world-famed school at Ratisbon and made him teacher of the choir of the Chapel Marchiana at Venice. It was while he occupied this office that the young composer gave to the world his first great oratorio. By *motu proprio* his Holiness ordered, early in his

Pontificate, a general reform of the music of the Church.

The Holy Father has now occupied the Chair of Peter for five years, and they have been, in some regards, memorable years in the history of the age. What the Pontificate is destined to bring forth it is, of course, impossible to foretell. Enough has been seen to make it quite apparent to all that the fortune of the Church will not lose in the care of Pius X. The Church, indeed, never stood in greater strength, power and majesty. Its dominions never stretched nearly as far as they do to-day, and perhaps it is the only power on earth that, in this day of constant change, can be considered absolutely safe and solidly secure. And the Pope, though robbed of the temporal possessions of the Church, stands serenely above all other kings and princes, their chief and master beyond compare. Since his accession he has had trouble with France. As we have seen, it is not the first time that a Pope has had to deal with unruly children in that strange land; but France has never been astray from the fold of Peter for long, and it may be that to Pius X. it remains to welcome back that land whole and entire to the paths of wisdom and fidelity. He has lately made matters clear with regard to what has come to be known as Modernism, and everywhere we see and feel his influence for good acting incessantly throughout the world. He received the heritage of the Papacy with added lustre from the never-to-be-forgotten Leo, and when the time comes he will in turn assuredly hand over the care of the Church to his successor with lustre added even to the glory of Leo's Pontificate.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE POPE.

Mr. John D. Crimmins, of New York, who has been created a Count by the Holy Father, in the course of a lecture before the New York Catholic Club, gave the following interesting particulars of the impressions made on his mind by a reception at the Vatican:— 'To reach the centre and focus of the life of the Universal Church, we must cross the Tiber by the ancient bridge of Sant' Angelo, and then through the central street of the Leonine City and on to the immense piazza, which represents one of the most striking spectacles in the whole world, with its mighty obelisk and magnificent fountains, and its circular rows of gigantic columns shutting it off from the rest of the city. In front rises St. Peter's, the greatest work raised by the hands of man to the glory of God. And at the very heart of this temple lies the body of the Prince of the Apostles; in the piazza in front is the site where he was crucified, head downwards, over eighteen centuries ago, and on the right the Vatican, that immense pile of buildings, which is at once the home and the throne and the prison of St. Peter's latest successor, Pius X. For the last thirty-eight years the Popes have never been outside the gardens attached and those towering walls. But when the Holy Father stands at his library window on the second floor, his eyes may rest on the free hills of Latium in the distance, or on the Eternal City beneath; or, nearer still, at his very feet, on the open space of the piazza which has been trodden by the feet of millions of pilgrims and which soaked with the blood of thousands of martyrs. Such thoughts as these are calculated to make us pay but little heed to the minor glories of the Vatican as we ascend the broad stairs that take us nearer and nearer to the person of the Holy Father.

For over a thousand years the palace has been growing in size and splendor, until it has become, with its eleven thousand rooms, what it is to-day, the richest treasure house in the universe of history, literature and art. But to the truly Catholic mind all this pales into insignificance beside the simple fact that this is the spot from which the successor of St. Peter, and the Vicar of Christ himself, guides and governs the Universal Church. Thus we pass from one rich hail to another until the last door is thrown open to us, and we find ourselves in the presence of the Pope.

Dressed from head to foot in white, a sturdy, well-knit frame, rather under than over the middle height, of easy and dignified bearing, Pius X. does not