

on business. At 9 he takes supper, spends a few minutes over the evening papers, recites the rosary with his secretary, and at half-past-10 his day's work is over.

Pius X. is as simple and as democratic in his bearing to his visitors as Father Sarto ever was; in fact, he seems to be more at ease with plain people and little children than with any other class. Shortly after his election a deputation of the Heraldic Society of Italy waited on him to beg to confer titles of nobility on his sisters. The Pope laughed heartily. "Why," he said, "they would be ashamed of their lives if I did anything of the kind. They are quite content to be just my sisters, and I am content with them as they are."

The Pope is never so much in his element as when he is preaching to a large congregation of plain people. In the Sunday afternoons of summer he lets them into a large open court in the Vatican and delivers a sermon on the gospel of the day. For twenty minutes (or twenty-five at the outside) he expounds for them in a powerful but musical voice the simple truths of Christianity.

HIS CHARACTER, HIS WAYS, HIS WORK.

It is characteristic of the Holy Father's entire priestly life (says the Right Rev. Mgr. Mundelein) that his first Encyclical letter was on the necessity of religious education, particularly instruction in the catechism; and that it was followed almost immediately after by his letter to the Bishops of the world on the proper preparation and choice of candidates for the priesthood. He was simply commending to others what he himself had put into practice for more than forty years. All that time, from his first year as a young priest, even when he was Bishop and later as Cardinal, he was constantly instructing his people, and instructing them in the catechism, which, after all, in few and simple words contains all the dogmatic truths and moral precepts of the Church. And even, after he became Pope, he used to gather hundreds of the people of Rome in one of the gardens of the Vatican on Sunday afternoons and there preach to them the same simple homely explanations of the catechism, as he did to the country-folk of his first mission. For he knew, from the fulness of his experience, that if a child knows its catechism well, then it is well grounded in its faith and better prepared to withstand the attacks against it; and likewise, that, for Catholics in general, there is nothing more beneficial than to have repeated Sunday after Sunday what they were taught as children. And this he commended, first of all and most strongly, to the Bishops and priests throughout the world.

How He Prepared the Rank and File of His Army.

Do you see how he was preparing the rank and file of his army for the attack of the enemy? Next to the proper preparation of the officers, the captains in the fight. He had been a professor in the Seminary, later he was the director of a Seminary. It was most noticeable that as Bishop and Archbishop he devoted a great deal of his time to the clerics in his Seminary. These were to be the curates, the parish priests, some of them the Bishops of the future. When as Pope he wrote to the Bishops of the world about the instruction of the clergy, the care to be exercised in admitting candidates to Holy Orders, and the necessity of rejecting those whose vocation was at all doubtful, he was simply giving them the fruits of his own rich experience; he was telling them not what he thought, but what he knew. And that he had proven that his precepts were practical is best shown by the active, zealous clergy that is growing up in the Venetian provinces as the result of his labors and his zeal. Does it not speak volumes for his practical wisdom that in the first year of his Pontificate he devoted his attention primarily and principally to the preparation, instruction, and equipment of the soldiers and officers of the vast army of which he is the head, thus fitting them for the real practical work of defence?

The Pope's Ability as a Man of Business.

Now, as to his ability as a man of business. When he entered the Vatican he found the finances of the Holy See in poor shape. The revenues of the Pope had been materially reduced in later years. The income from France, which had formerly been large, had practically ceased. The other countries had not added materially to their donations. The Peter Pence from America did not bear out the much-advertised generosity of the Americans, for our people had been deceived by purposely manufactured reports of the wealth of the Vatican, of the vast sums left by Leo XIII., whereas, as a matter of fact, Leo XIII. had practically nothing to leave. When he realised the condition of things Pius X. at once started to economise. He abolished this position and that, combined two others in one wherever he could, doing away with much of the splendor of the Papal Court. A Noble Guardsman told me that in the last four years no new appointments had been made to this fine organisation of noble-born, well-bred gentlemen. It is a pity, and it makes one sad when, returning after years, to see these changes. But the Pope is a practical man, and he had to find some way to make his revenues fit to the expenditures; and so the luxuries, the traditional trappings, and some of the royal splendor of the Vatican had to go. As a result, however, the finances of the Holy See, though very much shrunken, are on a firm basis. He has, it is admitted even by his critics, but one extravagance; and that is charity. And for this reason he has very little, if any, money of his own, and when he receives personal donations, as sometimes he does, they find their way very rapidly to the poor and needy recipients, whether they be individuals, missionary Bishops, or struggling institutions.

Pius X. Hears All Sides and Then Decides.

His choice of men and his appointments have been wise indeed, and prove him an excellent judge of human nature. The theologians whom he consults are men of world-wide reputation; his diplomatic advisers have grown old in this branch of the service. And yet the decision is always his own; no one controls Pius X. He always asks expert advice, then weighs and sifts the advice, then decides as he judges best. We do not maintain that he never makes a mistake, though his mistakes are very rare; the only man on God's earth who never makes a mistake is the man who does absolutely nothing, and the Pope works fifteen to sixteen hours out of every twenty-four. Probably the most noteworthy of his appointments was his choice of Secretary of State. Nobody expected him to appoint young Monsignor Merry Del Val; and to-day nobody denies that the choice was wise indeed; for seldom in its history has the Vatican seen in this position so skilled a diplomat, so polished a gentleman, as this descendant of a noble Spanish house on his father's side and of one of the old Irish families on his mother's. He is an expert linguist, and, having been educated in England, he is the first Cardinal Secretary of State to understand and speak English.

The Charming Personality of This Pontiff.

I have been able to cover but a few of the public acts of Pius X., but I have done so in order to show how, in his character as the Chief Bishop of the Church, he has been wise, thoughtful, prudent, far-seeing, thoroughly adapted to the requirements of his position, thoroughly acquainted with the needs and conditions of his time.

It has been my good fortune on two occasions to have had a lengthy and most interesting audience with him in his private apartment. This has given me a rare chance to better observe and study him. He forms such a contrast physically with his predecessor. Leo XIII. was a small figure in his later years, slender, with very prominent features and deep-set piercing eyes. He always made a wonderful impression on those who saw him for the first time. He seemed like something supernatural, the very embodiment of the dignity of the Papacy, an ideal Sovereign Pontiff. But

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