

THE LATE POPE

SOME REMINISCENCES

Since the death of Leo XIII. his Grace Archbishop Murphy, of Hobart, is the oldest prelate in Christendom, he having been appointed Bishop by Pope Gregory XVI., and consecrated on October 11, 1846.

European Rulers.

The thrones of Europe have nearly all had new incumbents since the late Pope was crowned in 1878. But Francis Joseph of Austria and Christian IX. of Denmark have been rulers for half a century, and Leopold II. of Belgium and Oscar II. of Sweden mounted their respective thrones a few years before Leo.

The News of the World.

Leo XIII. was a great reader of newspapers, or more correctly speaking he was deeply interested in their contents so far as they related to the internal affairs of the countries of the world. In the evening after he had recited the Rosary his favorite secretary went to his bedroom with the newspapers of the day, and read aloud, often until the small hours, while the Pope remained propped up in bed with woollen wraps around him, listening attentively to what was read, and making numerous comments.

A Wonderful Memory.

The late Pope had a wonderful memory. Some time prior to his death he told a surgeon who was attending him that a small scar on his finger was caused seventy-eight years ago, when he was a boy, by a ball striking his hand while he was playing a game called 'boccia' in the garden of the Palazzo Colonna; and he even remembered the name of the chemist who bound up the wound and the situation of the shop. All through life, even to the very last, Leo XIII.'s memory for faces and events was marvellous. The editor of the 'N.Z. Tablet' was present at an audience given by the late Pontiff in 1882 to the students of the Papal Seminary. There was an absence of formality, and in the course of the conversation one of the students quoted a line in Italian from Tasso's 'Gerusalemme Liberata.' The Pope followed it up at once by repeating the following stanzas from the immortal poem, which, it was stated, he knew word for word, notwithstanding the fact that it runs into several books.

Dr. Laponi.

The name of Dr. Laponi, the late Pope's physician, was frequently mentioned in the bulletins and cable news, and consequently a few particulars regarding him will be of interest at the present time. No one (says a Rome correspondent writing a few months ago) would think that Dr. Laponi draws as salary only £120 a year, yet that is just about the amount in English money. Professor Giuseppe Laponi has held his position since 1888. At that date Leo XIII., having been left with only a surgeon, and the need of a doctor being much felt, Dr. Laponi, who was practising at Osimo, on the Adriatic side of the Peninsula, came every week to Rome to visit him. Shortly after the surgeon died, and the Professor became and has remained the only physician to his Holiness. He has gradually so gained his confidence and friendship as to be to him what Dr. Schweininger was to Prince Bismarck. Dr. Laponi is the only person who ever succeeds in overcoming the natural obstinacy of Leo XIII. to take certain precautions, to which he shows great reluctance.

There are, however, habits which the persistence of the doctor has not succeeded in eradicating. His Holiness still persists in mounting a chair in the library to get down the books for himself, and when remonstrated with over the danger even to a younger person replies, 'I know the way, I know the way.'

A Pretty Incident.

An incident occurred when the late Pope was seven years of age which illustrates that kindheartedness for which he was distinguished through life. He had been to Anagni, a neighboring village, with his tutor. While they were driving back home he saw a poor boy with torn and dirty clothes lying on a stone by the roadside. Nino stopped the carriage, jumped out, and ran up to the poor boy, saying: 'What's the matter with you? Is your leg broken?'

'I don't know,' the shepherd lad replied, as the tears ran down his dirty face. 'Ten minutes ago one of the shepherds was driving his cart fast through the street, and before I could jump out of the way knocked me down, and the wheel ran over my ankle. The man didn't listen to my cries, but drove right on. Oh, how it hurts!'

Joachim ran to a hollow, where there was a small brook, filled his cap with its clear water, and gave it to the boy to drink. Then he washed his foot and tied it up with his white linen handkerchief. 'Where do you live?' said Nino.

'You can't get there like this. Come to Carpineto with me, and we will help you.' The poor boy smiled and limped to the carriage, leaning on the arm of his benefactor.

'What are you doing now, Joachim?' said his tutor. 'What am I doing? What every true Christian ought to do. I am helping the unfortunate. Could we leave this poor little wounded boy here helpless on the road?'

'Do you want to take him home? What will father and mother say?'

'They will say that I have acted rightly. Is it so extraordinary to succor a poor wounded child? Wouldn't any one do the same thing in my place?'

The teacher slapped him kindly on the shoulder, and all rode on to Carpineto. Joachim's mother was angry at her son at first when she saw a stranger in the carriage, but when she had heard the story she sent for the family physician and had him attend to the suffering boy. Joachim had tears of joy in his eyes while the ankle was being properly cared for.

'Did I do right, mother?' said he.

'Yes, my dear child, your act was a noble one,' and proudly and joyfully she folded him to her motherly heart.

KOZIE TEA CASH BONUSSES. Results of first distribution closed 21st May, 1903:—

1st Bonus, £10, cash, goes to Convent of Mercy, Hokitika; 2nd, £5, Mrs. W. Simpson Jun., Arno; 3rd, £3, Miss Fitzgerald, Waimihinihi; 4th, £2, Mrs. W. Leckhart, Milton; 5th, £1, Mrs. A. Hewitson Jun., Milton; 6th, 10s, Miss McMurtrie, Milton; 7th, 10s, Miss G. Paulin, Opoho; 8th, 10s, Miss M. Hunter, Cavesham; 9th, 10s, Mrs. Gunn, Chatto Creek; 10th, 5s, Miss Ida Mills, Dunback; 11th, 5s, Miss Myrtle Curtis, Westport; 12th, 5s, Miss M. Hay, Invercargill; 13th, 5s, Mr. A. Singer, Hokitika; 14th, 5s, Miss E. Shipman, Balfour; 15th, 5s, Mr. Regie Harper, Poverty Bay; 16th, 5s, Mr. J. Feely, Timaru; 17th, 5s, Mrs. Johnstone, Nelson. The next distribution closes on the 30th November, and coupons must be sent in not later than 7th December. Remember the first three bonuses are £5 each, and the tea is the best and most economical in the world, retailed at 1s 6d, 1s 9d, and 2s per lb. Golden Tipped Kozie, a specially fine high grown tea, at 2s 6d, is superb. Notice change in the distribution of bonuses—So as to give all a good chance of securing a substantial cash bonus, we have decided to withdraw the first and second bonuses of £10 and £5 and to substitute three bonuses of £5 each to go to the consumers sending in coupons representing the three largest quantities of Kozie Tea. The other bonuses will remain unchanged. We have checked the coupons returned to Messrs W. Scouler and Co. for first Kozie Tea distribution of cash bonuses, and certify that the above is a correct list of the winners—(Signed) Barr, Leary, and Co., Auditors, Dunedin, June 10th, 1903.—***

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