

fact is rather dull. And yet behind the scenes, where one could witness the actual manufacture of the puppets which were placed on the stage, one was sometimes amazed at the gullibility of a world which believed in their reality. As it is useless to protest, one must be content with merely stating a firm conviction, based upon a very close and careful observation of the recent proceedings, that the conduct of the members of the Sacred College before, during, and after the Conclave was, without any exception, absolutely in accordance with their high office, grave responsibilities, and the dictates of the most religious conscience.'

POPE PIUS X.

CLOSE OF THE CONCLAVE

CORONATION CEREMONIES

Counting Friday, July 31 (writes a Rome correspondent), towards the close of which the Cardinals retired for their momentous task, Tuesday was the fifth day of the Conclave. Day after day vast multitudes, at times reaching 50,000, had assembled in the great square of St. Peter's in the expectation of hearing the announcement that a new occupant had been chosen for the Papal throne. These were the most striking scenes Rome has seen in recent years. Twice each day the black tube belched smoke from the roof of the Sistine Chapel to signify that the choice had not been made.

On Tuesday a larger crowd than on previous days had assembled before St. Peter's to await the result of the seventh ballot. The heat was oppressive and the watchers clung closely to the shade of the colonnade opposite the Vatican balcony. The number of troops was increased.

Smoke issued from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel at 11.30 o'clock, but it was hazy and of smaller volume than heretofore, and the impression was created immediately that a choice had been made. Within a few minutes after the appearance of the thin white smoke one or two windows in the Vatican were opened, and the rumor gained force that an election had been reached. The crowd made a rush for the church, some gathering in the hot sun in front of the outer balcony, some assembling within and opposite the balcony from which the new Pope was to bless the world.

'I announce to you a Great Joy!'

rang out a great vibrant voice high up above the central portal of the chief temple of Christendom. The proclamation reached every ear of the multitude which filled the splendid approach below. Eager though they were to learn whose brow would wear the triple tiara, the Roman populace raised a mighty shout of acclamation. For several moments wild, tumultuous cheers rose toward the blazing midday sun.

The red-robed Cardinal above paused with arms uplifted and silence came, sudden and complete. Again that sonorous, dramatic voice: 'We have as Pope His Eminence the Most Rev. Cardinal, Archbishop, and Patriarch, Giuseppe Sarto, who takes the title of Pius the Tenth.'

None heard anything beyond the name of the new Pontiff. The last words of even that wonderful voice were swallowed up in the greater voice of waiting Rome. To that was added in another moment a brazen chorus of joy from the belfry above. The other bells of Rome heard it and took up the great acclaim. The same bells which a few days before sang the requiem of the dead Pope clanged a glad welcome to the new.

As soon as the first enthusiasm found expression, the multitude thronged into the church and stood uncovered in the vast nave facing the loggia above the bronze doors, and there awaited the appearance of the Pontiff to give his first benediction to the world. He appeared presently, accompanied by two Cardinals and other prelates. The effect of the solemn scene through which he had just passed in the Sistine Chapel was still visible in his pallor, yet he made almost an ideal figure as he stood in serene, sad dignity with his hand outstretched above the vast throng, his face gentle yet strong, lined, indeed, with firm purpose, but compassionate, sincere. Such at least were the characteristics which it seemed to bear as he finally gave his brief benediction. And what an acclaim they gave him! There was almost an hysterical note in it as it rose in volume. He watched the people for a moment, and then as he spoke his face became sadder and older until he turned away with a gesture full of pathos.

The descriptions of the scenes within the Vatican immediately following the election are deeply impressive.

'It is a Cross that I Receive from You.'

Such are said to have been the first words uttered by Giuseppe Sarto as Pope to the members of the Sacred College. This was as he arose from his knees before the Conclave altar on Tuesday morning, his face full of sadness, almost anguish. And his were not the only eyes whence tears fell as all paused for a moment while he sought to regain his self-possession and prepared himself to take up the burden of his vast responsibility.

While Prince Chigi, the master of the Conclave, was drawing up the official act of the election and acceptance of the newly-elected Pope, the latter, surrounded by his friends, disappeared into a small room near the altar, where he donned the white robes of his office. Pius X. was assisted by his conclavist, who first knelt and kissed his master's hand and thus received the first apostolic blessing given by Pius X. The new Pope was attired all in white, with the exception of red shoes, which was quite regular, but he did not stop to remove the Cardinal's red stockings for the Papal white ones, and these showed as he raised his gown to move forward. When he was robed, the secretary of the Conclave, Monsignor Merry del Val, kneeling, offered him the Papal white cap amidst breathless silence. With a slight smile Pius X. took the white cap, placed it calmly on his head, and dropped the red one lightly on the head of Monsignor Merry del Val, amidst a murmur of approval. This is taken as a certain indication that the happy recipient is soon to be raised to the Cardinalate.

As the new Pontiff stepped from behind the altar, the only touch of color about him being his red and gold shoes, he seemed the embodiment of his holy office. His face was pale and clearly softened by emotion. He paused a moment as he came before the expectant Cardinals then seated himself on the throne with a hurried movement, as though he had suddenly grown weak.

His back was to the altar, and he was enthroned to receive the so-called 'first obedience' of the Cardinals. They came forward one by one. All kissed his hand and foot, while he saluted each on the cheek with the kiss of peace. Then all broke into

The 'Te Deum'

with such effect that scarcely an eye was dry. Pius X. then rose, and in a voice at first tremulous, but gradually becoming full and firm, administered the Papal blessing to all of the members of the Sacred College. It was received with bowed and uncovered heads. The Fisherman's ring was placed on the Pontiff's finger. The new Pope rose and an effort to have some kind of a procession was made, but Pius X. was literally carried in triumph to his cell, followed by a great concourse and preceded by the cross. He was stopped every step or two by those anxious to kiss his ring and receive the Papal blessing, which the new Pontiff accorded with great benignity and patience. When he arrived at the door of his cell the Pope turned and, raising his hands, gave in a voice almost suffocated with emotion his benediction to the assembly, which received it on bended knees.

After a short rest, imposed by the fatigue and emotion of his election, Pius X. joined his court in the Ducal Hall for the solemn benediction which he was about to give to the people of Rome. Although to ordinary eyes the confusion was as great as ever, to those practised in the mysteries of the Vatican order was coming out of the chaos, and the bearing of all in the presence of the Pope was much more formal. The babel of voices sank at his approach, while none addressed him unless he spoke first. The formal salutations having terminated, a procession was formed. In the centre was

The Pontiff in His White Robes,

his figure standing out above those surrounding him, his silver hair gleaming under his white cap. He was surrounded by the Cardinals, still in their violet robes, and preceded by the Pontifical cross.

The procession traversed many noble halls until it approached the window looking into St. Peter's. From below rose a murmur of voices which, although subdued by distance, denoted the presence of a large concourse of people. The Pope was seen to grow pale, and then, turning to Cardinal Bacilieri, who stood beside him, he said: 'Now I understand the emotion Pope Leo always showed when going into St. Peter's to have the eyes of a great crowd focussed on him. It is almost terrifying.' Then followed the ceremony of blessing already described.

Although the election was ended at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning and was announced to the world 43 minutes later by the appearance of the new Pope at the window of St. Peter's, the Conclave was not formally dissolved until half-past five o'clock in the afternoon. The Cardinals then returned to their various apartments in Rome, with the exception of Cardinals Oreglia and Rampolla, who temporarily retain their official suites in the Vatican, and Cardinal Herrero y Espinosa,