

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1891.

# LEO XIII'S SUCCESSOR.

WHO WILL SIT IN THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER?

Can an American be Pope?—The Cardinals Who Are Next in Line of Succession—The Strange Ceremonies That Follow the Death of the Supreme Pontiff.



INCE the almost violent withdrawal of Bismarck from the stage of European politics, nothing has occurred to give such a shock of genuine surprise to those who are closely observing the current of affairs in Europe as the downfall of the Italian premier, Signor Crispi. By far the strongest leader of a generation, his retirement proceeds from causes similar in a large degree to those that contributed more immediately to the deposition of the German premier, persistent self-assertion and over-confidence in his own ability to force through measures to which the state, and a very large majority of the Italian people, were alike opposed. He has been the most picturesque figure in Italian politics in half a century, and his premiership has afforded a remarkable contrast to the conservatism which characterizes that of Depretis, his immediate predecessor. Under his influence, Italy has drawn further and further away from France, her natural ally, and the formation of the triple alliance, representing the cabinets of Germany, Austria and Italy, gave the last blow to the hopes of those who valued that friendship. If Crispi's overthrow is to be interpreted as disrupting the triple alliance, it may be of the utmost significance to Europe.

But while the Italian people, and especially the politicians, are still discussing the cabinet troubles in a way that shows their uncertainty as to the outcome, and while King Humbert is yet apparently undecided about taking the risk of a temporary ministry under the Marquis de Budini, or awaiting a fitting opportunity to recall the disgraced premier, there is one element in Italian affairs that is profoundly glad of the downfall of the old-time Sicilian revolutionists. The vatican bears no love to the ex-premier, whose hand of steel has more than once been raised against it in sullen menace, and who aimed, with the assistance of the allied cabinets, to control



CARDINAL S. VAUNTELLI.

the approaching papal conclave, with the ultimate view of influencing the choice of a successor to the present pontiff who would be acceptable to the alliance. Thirteen years ago he attempted to influence a similar conclave and failed, and while the sacred college holds that a like result would have followed any further attempt in the same direction, it is a moral certainty that, had Crispi retained the premiership, the interference would not have been wanting.

These matters, together with the unsettled health of the aged pontiff, have again brought the question of the papal succession into prominence. There is now a mere possibility of a break in the long line of Italians who have been chosen for the high office, although, as vatican politics crystallize slowly, it is yet too early to venture a prediction in that respect. Among the cardinal candidates who are likely to be prominently before the conclave when it assembles are seven who are considered to be ambitious of occupying the chair of St. Peter, viz: Parocchi, Battaglini, San Felice, Agostino, Alimonda, La Villetta and Dusmet. The first is the vicar of Rome and president of the sacred college, a vigorous Genoese, still under sixty, with a strong nature veiled by a mild paternal manner. He was formerly archbishop of Bologna and is today virtually the ruling spirit of the church. He is a man of the rarest

erudition and the broadest and most liberal view, although in matters affecting the church he is inflexible. His most powerful rival is perhaps Cardinal La Villetta, the dean of the sacred college, who is Parocchi's senior by some four or five years, and who traces noble blood in his veins. His candidacy would be peculiarly acceptable to French influence, since he is by descent a Gaul. Moreover, he is quite the equal of Parocchi in matters of church law and government and stands very high as an authority. Alimonda is a Turinian of venerable aspect. He has had the most intimate relations with the royal house of any of the cardinals and this, together with the fact that he is not so vigorous a theologian as some of the others, may set him aside. Agostino is a moderate and one of the oldest members of the sacred college, being nearly 70 years of age. Dusmet is still older, and Battaglini is 70. The latter, like Agostino, is a man of conciliatory nature and would on that account be probably acceptable to the monarchy. San Felice is also very old and somewhat frail in health, but he is greatly beloved in Naples and indeed throughout Italy. The foreign element in the college is represented by Gibbons of America, Ziglar of Corsica, and the venerable Lavigerie, the leader in the great African anti-slavery crusade. Of the last named three, however, little is to be predicted; for except in an extreme emergency there is hardly a chance of other than an Italian pope being chosen.



CARDINAL LAVIGERIE.

CARDINAL LASCHEREAU.

The retirement of Signor Crispi makes this probability the more remote.

When the present Pontiff dies, this is the strange and unique ceremonial that will be observed and which has been heretofore observed in all papal elections. The moment death is announced, the chamberlain or "Camerlengo" of the vatican will enter the room in which the body lies, bearing in his hand a small mallet. Advancing, he will reverently raise the instrument and tap thrice upon the forehead of the dead Pope, calling him by name at every stroke—not by his official title, but by the christian name and surname. He will then draw from the finger of the dead the signet ring of Saint Peter, known as the "Ring of the Fisher," from the fact that it has been upon it the figure of the apostle drawing from the sea a net full of fishes.

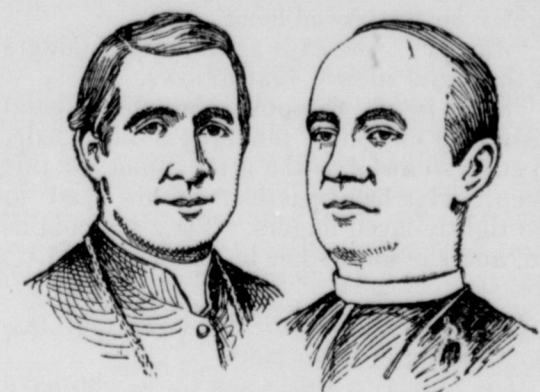
When the sacred college assembles, the second week after the Pontiff's death—the funeral having taken place meanwhile—steps are taken for the election of a successor. This gathering is called a conclave and is one of the most solemn offices associated with the history of the vatican. It is held in an apartment that is shut off from all possibility of communication with the outer world, and to secure the absolute privacy of which the most extraordinary precautions are taken. Doors and windows are bricked up, a single entrance being left for the use of the cardinals. In the interval between the death and the funeral, ample opportunity has been afforded the cardinals living in Rome, as well as those from a distance, to meet their friends, and during these days there is apt to be a good deal of political maneuvering; but after the tenth day, each cardinal retires to his own little apartment—which is more like a cell than anything else—and thereafter he



CARDINAL PAROCCHI.

sees no one except his confreres, until the election is over. On the day of the conclave all are summoned from their cells by a bell thrice rung, and repair to the assembly chamber. From this moment until the result of the voting is announced, they have no communication save with the vatican officials, who act more like turnkeys than servants. Their clothing and even their food is searched, lest they should contain

correspondence from friends outside. If, by the greatest exercise of leniency, a visitor is admitted, he must speak to the immured cardinal through a grating of iron and in a tone loud enough to be heard by the watchers. After a night of this imprisonment, the conclave is formally assembled early next forenoon, and all repair to the Sistine chapel, where a desk has been provided for each cardinal. In the middle of the hall are six tables, and behind these an altar. Immediately in front of the altar is a table on which are two



CARDINAL GIBBONS, CARDINAL SAN FELICE.

silver bowls for holding the ballots. Before proceeding further, a search is made in the chapel to assure the conclave of the fact that none but those entitled to vote are present. Three inspectors of the election are then chosen by ballot. Should any cardinal be so ill that he is unable to leave his dormitory, a committee is appointed to visit him and take his vote, which is brought to the conclave sealed and deposited in one of the silver bowls.

Preliminaries being settled, the balloting begins. First to cast his ballot is the dean of the college, who writes the name of his candidate on a slip of paper eight inches in length and four in width, which he folds, and sealing it at both ends, folds it once more in the middle, and then drops it in the bowl nearest his desk. All follow in the order of their rank as members of the college. As each deposits his ballot, he holds it in his hand, and advancing to the foot of the altar, kneels and solemnly calls the deity to witness that he chooses for pontiff the person whose name is written therein. On the vote being finished the inspectors advance to the bowls and taking out the ballots unfold them and make a list of the vote, showing the number of ballots cast for each candidate. To elect a pope, it is necessary that the successful candidate should receive not less than two-thirds of the entire vote cast. Failing this, the ballots are torn, thrown into a straw heap and burned, and the straw being dampened, the thick smoke that ascends is a signal to the outside world of the progress of the conclave. The incineration of the ballots closes the session for the day, and the conclave does not reassemble until evening.



CARDINAL ALIMONDA, CARDINAL DUSMET.

At the evening session an opportunity is given to those cardinals representing foreign powers to state whatever serious objections may exist to any of the candidates, and which, in the event of that candidate's election as pope, might operate to the disadvantage of the vatican abroad. These objections are duly considered. Twice in the present century have the foreign cardinals successfully opposed the election of leading candidates. There are many modes of conducting a papal election, but the simplest and most generally used is that described. One of the oldest, by which many popes were chosen in the early years of the church, was acclamation, all the cardinals simultaneously designating their choice. Compromise candidates have several times been taken by general agreement, whenever the race between two strong cardinals became so close as to deadlock the college. In such an event Cardinal Vanutelli must be named among the "dark horses" who have a good chance of coming out ahead.

Proceeding with the election by ballot, voting is continued on the lines indicated until a choice is reached, and this is made known to the people by the absence of the smoke, for although the ballots, as in the unsuccessful instances, are also burned, the smoke is not permitted to escape. When the result is reached, it is announced by the ringing of a bell; all the senior cardinals advance to the place occupied by the newly-elected pontiff and inquire if he accepts the election. On receiving his affirmative answer, he is at once saluted by the entire college. He then announces the name by which he desires to be known throughout the world as the head of the church, and, after putting on the robe and head-dress of his new office, he is approached by the camerlengo, who places upon his signet finger a new "Ring of the Fisher," the old one having been broken

in pieces according to immemorial custom. Each cardinal in turn approaches and salutes the hand and foot of the pontiff with the "two-fold kiss," and the assemblage dissolves.

When one remembers that 34 of the 60 odd cardinals are Italians, and that a two-thirds vote is needed to elect, it will be seen how difficult it would be, in any event, for a foreigner to overcome the united Italian vote. But not always is this vote united; some are, like Alimonda, leaning towards the royal house of Italy, although they would still preserve the papacy free from the intermeddling or control of cabinets and courts. The Crispi influence gone and the allied cabinets of the three powers no longer to be dreaded, the field seems clear for a vatican election without pressure when Leo passes away.

Sometime ago the *Independence Belge* declared that it had positive information that the pontiff desired that Cardinal Lavigerie should be selected as his successor, and had intimated as much at the last consistory. No better foundation to this statement can be found, however, than the wish of certain politicians to advance the claims of France at the vatican. Charles Martial Allemand-Lavigerie, now archbishop of Carthage and Algiers, is a native of France and has become known to the world mainly through his anti-slavery crusade. He has during a period of twenty years travelled over and worked everywhere in a vast extent of territory and is almost worshipped by his people. Al-



CARDINAL AGOSTINO, CARDINAL LA VILLETTE.

though a septuagenarian, his robust physique and black hair, relieved by an almost snow-white beard, show that he has yet many years of energetic effort before him. Still it is hardly among the probabilities that the crusader-cardinal will ever sit in the chair of St. Peter. Indeed, there would even seem to be equal likelihood of Cardinal Merillod of Switzerland, or an American being chosen—two extremely remote possibilities. The militant leader of the church to-day is Vicar General Lucido Maria Parocchi, around whom all conjecture as to the succession seems to naturally center, and who will probably attract to his support the conservative element in the sacred college, as well as many of the more progressive, who recognize in him a man of tremendous energy, a rare diplomat, an eloquent and learned prince of the church, and one well calculated to resist the encroachments of the allied governments upon the papal power.

## His Weak Spot.

One evening four or five drummers and agents who had been working Quincy, Ill., to no purpose, were discussing their ill luck in the office of the hotel, when one observed:

"There's an old shad down here in a hardware store who makes me tired. This is about the fifteenth time I've tried for an order, and it's no go."

"Old chap with a big nose on him?" queried one of the others.

"Yes."

"Ordered me out doors, confound him."

"And he told me," said a third, "that he never bought of an agent, trusted a stranger or got caught on any man's game."

"That's old Blank to a dot," put in the landlord. "He's as sharp as he is stingy."

Considerable more was said in the same strain, but by and by a man who had registered from Chicago put in:

"Boys, it's all in understanding human nature. Bet you \$50 even up that I can get \$10 out of him in fifteen minutes, and that without value received or signing my name to a paper."

His money was covered instantly, and next morning he took one of the crowd down to the store, introduced himself, and said:

"Mr. Blank, the governor of this state gave me your name as a prominent resident of this neighborhood. Our house is publishing county histories of Illinois. Every subscriber at \$25 has a full-page portrait and two pages of reading matter. I shall take only five in this city, and you being the most prominent resident I have called on you first."

Well, sir, in just twelve minutes he had old Blank's order for a book, and \$10 paid down as a guarantee that he would take it. He had hit him in his weak spot, and our money fell into his pocket with a thud which could be heard clear across the hotel office.

## A Twirling Stone.

There has been discovered about half a mile west of the Barytown ledges, a twirling stone of about five tons weight. It has always been regarded as a boulder, and from the way it is poised on the rock beneath it, no one could see why it should not rock. Hundreds have tried to rock it in vain, and the surprise of the man who first felt it move under pressure may better be imagined than described. It moves hard, of course, but it moves, the finder informs us, round as if it was placed upon a pivot. It has been carefully examined and while it looks like a boulder, several allege that it must be a ceremonial stone set there by some prehistoric race. This rock is creating great interest among the boulder hunters of eastern Connecticut.—*Norwich Bulletin.*

# HERE ARE SOME FACTS.

HOW "PROGRESS" WONDERFUL COMBINATION OFFER IS TAKING.

Dictionaries Going as Fast as We Can Get Them—Some Idea of the Book and What People Say About It—Wonderful Value for the Money.

Perhaps the biggest surprise about PROGRESS office now is the edition of Webster's dictionary. We have not spoken of it before, except in the way of an announcement or two which simply quoted the combination price with PROGRESS. The same book was used in this city about the holiday season as a "leader,"—which means, as most people know, that the article is reduced to about wholesale prices for the retail trade. At that time the people were busy and while there was a good sale, holiday goods had the preference. By guaranteeing to dispose of a very large number of this edition of Webster's Unabridged dictionary, PROGRESS has obtained control of its sale for the provinces. Less sanguine friends laughed at the idea of the paper being able to dispose of more than half the number, but they did not realize how a really good article at remarkable value takes with the people. The first lot went off in two or three days after the announcement was made and the second lot is going even faster than the first. Last Saturday morning between 10 and 12 o'clock no less than ten persons called personally at the office and carried off the book with them. Each of them was well pleased, for, while the cut of the dictionary is attractive it does not by any means show just how handsome the volume is. The invariable remark is, "How can such a book as that be gotten up for \$1.75," for that is what it costs in addition to the \$2.00 a year for PROGRESS—\$3.75 in all. Several ladies made the same remark when they called to see the book: "I want it for the children," and one of them frankly stated that children often asked puzzling questions which were difficult to answer offhand. "We have a small dictionary, but Webster's is such a mine of information that it answers every purpose and every question."

And that is literally true. The book that PROGRESS controls contains not only 1,500 pages, but an appendix that brings it up to over 1,800 pages. Many people will listen to this but are still skeptical and ask, "Isn't that dictionary old enough to vote?" There is only one reply to this, and it is conclusive. It is the standard Webster's dictionary on which the copyright expired last year. By reason of that copyright the price ranged from \$12 to \$15. The writer paid \$13 for his volume only 18 months ago, and it is identical in contents with the one PROGRESS is now offering at such a remarkable price.

A well known clergyman who called at the office a few days ago saw the book, and not having seen PROGRESS' announcement, asked what it was worth. "What would you say it was worth?" was the reply. He looked through the book carefully, and said, "The print is good, the binding handsome and heavy, almost equal to that on my own. I have both editions of Webster—they were sent to me for my opinion—so I did not have to pay anything for them, but I should say this book is worth at least \$6."

"I will give it to you with the 16-page PROGRESS for a whole year for \$3.75." He was too surprised to speak for a moment and his parting words were, "I cannot understand it."

And this was from a judge of books—an educated man who was selected to pass an opinion upon copyright editions of Webster!

It would be superfluous for PROGRESS to begin to praise the dictionary that the authorities of the world have united in saying is the best work of its kind extant. It is in very truth the dictionary of dictionaries. It is more, for within its pages can be found all the information that is of practical use to the every day man. Besides being a dictionary of pronunciation and spelling, it is a dictionary of synonyms and quotations. How often when one is writing do words get mixed; how often one wonders whether such a word is spelled right or wrong? Men and women who can spell every ordinary English word, often get puzzled by the very simplest. Again when one is writing, how often do the same words crop up. There is nothing so provoking as to read an article over after writing it and find a repetition of words. It is hard always to think of other words that will express the same meaning. If Webster's dictionary is at hand difficulties disappear—spelling does not trouble one, and with 10,000 synonyms to choose from there can be no repetition of words.

There are still many persons who, when writing, will persist in using numerous quotations—Latin and French most commonly, but also from other languages not so well known. The ordinary reader is not a French translator, and has not gone to college or high school for a sufficient period to have the meaning of Latin phrases at the end of his tongue. He stumbles

over some common French quotation and is puzzled, loses the thread of the article, and throws it down in disgust. If he had Webster he could find it in a few seconds, and learn something else at the same time.

For example, how many people understand or know anything about the proof marks of the printer? Every merchant has more or less printing done, and if he is as particular as he should be, he knows what his job is going to look like before it goes on the press. In other words, he reads his own proof. If he does, it is 100 to 1 that he does not know how to make out this word or that letter, or alter or make the necessary changes. He is at a loss and at a disadvantage. If Webster's dictionary was on his desk, there would be an end to all this. The printer's proof marks are not only all there, but they are explained and made as clear as noon day.

It would take too many columns of the paper to speak of everything in this book. This much may be added that there is a perfect wealth of carefully made and correct illustrations, some 1,500 in all, which would be invaluable to the student of natural history, or anyone else who is curious enough to want to know what animals or fishes or birds unknown to him look like.

PROGRESS offers the book as an inducement to subscribers. It is offered at a figure that cannot be competed against by any other than the publisher, and to get the books from him at \$1.75 would call for an order for several hundred copies. PROGRESS and Webster's dictionary to old subscribers, whose subscription expired before February 1st, for \$3.25, and to those whose subscriptions expired during February, and new subscribers for \$3.75. What better value can be found for the money?

## CHINESE RELIGION.

Its Foundation is About the Same as Other Beliefs.

It has sometimes been supposed that the primitive religious faith of the Chinese was a crude form of nature-worship; but on the contrary, its very kernel was the recognition of a kindly parental something, above what we are accustomed to call nature, determining its phenomena for the welfare of man, which Chinese writers, fully conscious of the difficulty of the attempt, tried to name by the conjoined title (implying as many believe, no real quality) of heaven and earth. Not only is there a constant reference of human affairs to this over-ruling Providence but under the personal title, Shang-ti, do the Chinese seem to recognize, and through their Pontiff or Sovereign, annually offer very solemn worship to, one Supreme God ruler of heaven and earth, and so superior, in an immeasurable degree, to all genii, ghosts and spirits. . . . A third element is constantly introduced along with that of heaven and earth, and that is man. He is called the Microcosm, or world in little, and in him is found the type of all things, the symbol, the very flower of all existing and created beings. We have already referred to the Confucian conception, of an ideal or superior man, the moral knight, the true gentleman, which now pervades all schools of Chinese thought. He is the one who fulfils rightly all the relationships of life according to his station, acting towards others as he would have them act to him in return, and showing generally that he is swayed by a moral sense. In life and conduct the middle course is where safety and peace are surely to be found; all extremes lead to ruin and disaster. Filiality is the type of all virtues perhaps the one source whence all have really sprung. Hence ancestor worship is yet almost universal, and is one of the very last weeds to yield to the good seed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who claims the undivided allegiance of His followers. . . . To this very day the grand national worship of Shang-ti is twice annually offered by the Emperor, amid much pomp, at two altars—one square, the other round—each having the same significance as in the instances already mentioned. Very striking is the fact that this worship is felt to be too solemn to be directly engaged in by anyone but the Pope-Emperor or spiritual father of the people, and by him only after solitary prayer fasting. Yet so great an authority as Professor Legge gives it as his opinion, after a life-long study of the early classics, that were a Chinese child, familiar with the old pagan prayers used long before Christ's time, to be asked in the familiar words of Dr. Watts' "First Catechism"—"Can you tell me, child, who made you?" he would probably enough answer, in the very words of Dr. Watts, "The great God who made heaven and earth."—*Conquests of the Cross.*

## Wool Bleached by Fear.

A Colorado rancher relates the following story: "As most people know, black wool brings from five to ten cents less per pound than the corresponding grade of white wool. In order to insure the separation of the inferior product, as our shearing operations progressed, we at once placed the black sheep in a pen by themselves. There were sixty-three of the black sheep thus isolated in the corral on the night I speak of. Some time during the darkness a wolf entered the pen and killed a ewe and two lambs. On the following morning we were greatly surprised to find that the wool on the remaining sixty had turned perfectly white from terror."

It is reported that the author of this story is a church member in good standing.—*St. Louis Republic.*