

HIS HOLINESS, POPE PIUS IX.

FROM the 'Advocate' we take the following outline of the life of the Holy Father; and as the Catholic Church has been honoring the 28th anniversary of his election and coronation, we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of presenting our readers with a biographical notice of that illustrious Confessor of the Faith, and we would ask with that journal that every Catholic whose hands it may reach will offer up a short prayer for Christ's Vicar and Christ's Church.

THE YOUTH OF PIUS IX.

The Christian name of Pio Nono is Giovanni Maria. He was born at Sinigaglia, Italy, on the 13th of May, 1792, and he is, consequently, now a little over 82 years of age. His father was the Count Mastai-Ferretti, and his mother the Countess Catherine Salazzi. At the age of eleven—being intended for the Church—young Mastai was placed in the college of a religious body at Volterra, where he soon distinguished himself in his studies. At the age of 17, in October, 1809, the young student removed to Rome, where he resided with his uncle, a canon in the Vatican Basilica, but both uncle and nephew were soon compelled to fly from the Eternal City in consequence of the seizure of the Roman States by Napoleon. In 1802, being then twenty, by reason of his distinguished birth, young Count Mastai was required to join the Guard of Honour in Milan, but obtained exemption owing to the delicacy of his health, having suffered for four years from occasional epileptic fits. He remained in his native city, whither he went after leaving Rome, until the return of Pius VII. to his State, and to whom he was presented on his passage through Sinigaglia. He returned to Rome in 1814, where he attended the Ecclesiastical Academy, but only as a layman, as the continuance of his disease was a preventative to his aspiring to sacred orders. Still, he did not despair, but hoped that the obstacle would in time be removed, and he soon re-assumed his ecclesiastical garb and commenced a course of theological studies, under the celebrated Professor Joseph Graziosi. In course of time his epileptic attacks became less violent, so as to permit his being admitted to minor orders.

FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL LABOURS.

His first services in the Church were in connection with a mission to his native province, in which he was invited to join in an endeavor to awaken a spirit of religion among the people, and in which he engaged with singular zeal, and with gratifying results. Returning to Rome in improved health, he obtained a dispensation, and was promoted to subdeacon, to which office he was ordained 18th December, 1818, and afterwards to that of deacon. Aspiring to the priesthood, he eventually solicited a further dispensation, which was granted on the condition that he should be assisted by another clergyman when offering the Holy Sacrifice. He, however, in time, determined, if possible, to obtain the removal of this restriction, for which purpose he asked for, and obtained, a special audience of the Pope, who had always looked kindly upon him. In this audience he was granted the favor he desired, the Holy Father telling him that he believed he would be no longer afflicted with his disease; and from that time he has had no return of the malady. He celebrated Mass for the first time on Easter, 1819, in the Church of St. Anne del Folignani, which adjoined an orphanage where he had devoted himself to the care and maintenance of 100 poor orphans, who were being trained to various trades, and to whom he personally gave religious instruction.

BECOMES A MISSIONARY IN SOUTH AMERICA.

A mission in Chili being decided upon in 1823, Mastai was invited to join in, and accepted the duty in opposition to the wishes of his mother, who interceded to prevent his departure; but the Pope assured her that he would return home safely. Upon the breaking out of the revolution in Chili he returned home, reaching Rome in December, 1825, after an absence of two years and a half. He was at once appointed by Leo XII., who had ascended the Papal throne shortly after his departure, to the presidency of the Ospizio di San Michele, the laborious duties of which he faithfully discharged.

BECOMES A PRELATE.

After fulfilling these duties for twenty months, Leo XII. designated him to the Archiepiscopal See of Spoleto, the Pontiff's native diocese, where he founded an orphanage for the maintenance and instruction of poor children intended for industrial life.

ELEVATED TO THE DIGNITY OF CARDINAL.

In December, 1832, Gregory XVI., who was then the Pontiff, translated Mastai from the Archiepiscopal See of Spoleto to the Episcopal See of Incola, vacant by the resignation of Cardinal Justinian; and while in this diocese he was decorated with the purple, being reserved *in pectus* in the consistory of 23rd December, 1839, and was proclaimed Cardinal 14th December, 1840.

THE PAPAL THRONE BECOMES VACANT.

The intelligence of the death of Pope Gregory XVI., which took place 1st June, 1846, was received by Cardinal Mastai a few days later, while engaged with a number of his clergy in a spiritual retreat, where they were accustomed to assemble for ten days for seclusion and prayer, and he at once hastened to Rome, at which city he arrived on the 12th.

ELECTION OF PIUS IX.

On 14th June the Cardinals assembled to elect a new Pontiff, with an anxious and excited crowd in the outer streets awaiting the decision. The Sacred College consumed two days in the testing of votes, the candidates for the vacant tiara being the following cardinals:—Frasoni, aged 71; Castruccio Castacano, 67; Oreole, 68; Micara, 71; Polidori, 66; and Mastai-Ferretti, 54. On the evening of the 16th the choice unanimously fell on the latter, who was by more than a dozen years the youngest of the candidates; and on the morning of the 17th, Cardinal Mastai was proclaimed from the balconies of the Quirinal as the new Pope, under the title of Pius IX., and he was crowned on the 21st. He has worn the tiara over 28 years.

This selection was the cause of great rejoicing among the Italian Liberals, who felt inspired with the hope that the new Pontiff would inaugurate his reign with a course of liberal measures, which they

imagined in the end would conduce to Italian unity, which had been their "bewitching dream" for many years.

The new Pope did not disappoint the expectations of the Liberals, as he commenced his reign by the introduction of reforms of a nature more progressive than any that had been granted by previous Popes; but he soon found himself overwhelmed by the revolutionary wave which passed over Europe in 1848, from which date till the time of its total extinction, the temporal power of the Pope was dependant for its existence on foreign bayonets.

But the Pope was now beset with difficulties, in consequence of his liberal views, which induced a horde of the dissatisfied of other countries to crowd to Rome. The result was that Pius IX. found it necessary to check his reformatory measures. Shortly after this, on 10th August, 1847, another cause of disquietude was the seizure by the Austrians of the city of Ferrara, under a presumed authority given by the treaty of Vienna; but evidently for the purpose of keeping watch over the Roman Liberals.

THE UPRISING OF 1848.

In February, 1848, took place the French Revolution which closed the reign of Louis Philippe, and shook Europe to its foundation. Pius IX., to give full satisfaction to the Roman people, formed a new Cabinet, composed of ten lay and only three ecclesiastical members. This Ministry immediately set about framing a new constitution, the extension of the National Guards, and the organisation of part for active service in the field.

The Pope was next dragged into the war which was now being waged between Sardinia and Austria, being forced against his will to declare war against the latter power, and to contribute a small force to the Italian league. This was immediately followed, on the 1st May, by the formation of a new Cabinet, composed entirely of men of the most liberal opinions, at the head of which were Cardinal Ciocchi and Count Marchetti, who declared their firm adherence to the cause of Italy. The war was not a protracted one, soon terminating by the success of Austria and the abdication of Charles Albert, in favour of his son, the present King of Italy. Throughout the summer of 1848 the revolutionary passions were violently excited in the unstable Romans, and although many reforms were introduced, they were not sufficiently radical for the revolutionary party. On 15th November the Minister, Count Roszi, was murdered on his way to the Chambers, by a man named Constantadine, who stabbed him in the neck. That evening the clubs and societies met, and determined to take advantage of the paralysis which the murder had caused the Papal Government. Next morning a crowd attacked the Quirinal, but were driven back by the Swiss Guard. They returned, however, reinforced, and after some firing the Pope ordered his guard to cease firing, and said to the diplomatic body that he was no longer a free agent, and must yield to necessity. On the list of Ministers which the insurgents had drawn up being presented to him, he refused to sign; which when the crowd learned, they became tumultuous, and cried out, "Sign, sign," till at last the Pope complied. The Pope now virtually became a prisoner in his own palace, and took no part in public affairs, though the government was carried on in his name. This position was insupportable, and he therefore determined to seek refuge in flight; and so, on the 24th, he escaped from Rome, and succeeded in reaching Gaeta, in the Neapolitan territory. Immediately afterwards, the Cardinals considered it advisable to follow his example. Directly it was known that the Pope had escaped, the Ministry sent a deputation requesting his return, but they were not permitted to pass the frontier. The Pontiff declared that the Ministry was illegal and all its acts void, whereupon both Chambers provisionally deprived him of temporal power, and decreed the election of a "Provisional Supreme Junta" for the purpose of carrying on the government, its functions "to terminate upon the return of the Sovereign Pontiff, or when he shall himself appoint, according to constitutional forms, a substitute of his own selection." Pius IX. remained at Gaeta and Portici nearly

A YEAR AND A HALF AN EXILE

from his capital, and an object of sympathy as the Head of the Roman Church. The return of the Pope to Rome did not take place until nine months after its occupation by the French, which took place on 3rd July, 1849. He left Portici 4th April, 1850, escorted by Neapolitan and French troops, and, accompanied by the King of Naples, entered his dominions on the 6th, and re-entered Rome on the 12th, amid the joyous acclamation of the faithful. From that time until the year 1870 the reign of Pius IX. had been a comparatively tranquil one, notwithstanding the great changes that took place in Italy, as the French Government left a military force to co-operate with the Papal troops in suppressing any revolutionary attempts. Since his restoration to the Eternal City, Pio Nono has most devotedly attended to the interests of the Church, and the progress of Catholicity during his Pontificate marks his reign as one of the most celebrated on record. It is sufficient that we should here merely mention the important events which belong to its ecclesiastical history. These are the reunion with the See of Rome of large numbers of schismatic Greeks; the re-establishment, in 1850, of a Catholic hierarchy in England; the large development and fuller organisation of the Church in the United States; the definition in December, 1854, of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception; and the meeting, in December, 1869, of the Ecumenical Council at the Vatican, the first general council held since that of Trent, which met upwards of 300 years ago. The Council of the Vatican was attended by nearly 900 prelates from every part of the world. One of the results of its deliberations has been the declaration of the infallibility of the *ex cathedra* teachings of the supreme head of the Church. Several other important matters were also to have been settled, especially with regard to the discipline of the Church in different countries, when the news that war was declared between France and Germany fell on Europe like a thunderbolt, in the middle of July, 1870. The Council had on this account to be postponed. In the next month the French troops, who had so long protected the city, were withdrawn, and it was left completely undefended. The army of Victor Emmanuel