

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF PIO NONO

Toward the end of the sixteenth century a combmaker, Alberto Mastai, of Brescia, with whom the world did not go well, went to live at Sinigaglia. Fortune smiled on him in his new home; the combmaker flourished, and became so rich that he obtained the hand of a young lady of fortune named Feretti, and at the same time the rank of Count. Such is the origin of the house of Mastai Feretti. Girolami Mastai Feretti, descended from the latter, married a daughter of Count Salazzi, and the issue of this marriage is Gian-Maria Mastai, born in 1792, now Pius IX.

From his infancy he seems to have been weak, subject to epileptic fits, and difficult to manage. When a boy he was sent to the college at Volterra, presided over by the learned astronomer, Inghirami; but his chronic indisposition did not permit him to derive much advantage from that seat of learning. On returning home, however, his health greatly improved, and as he grew stronger, he manifested a keen desire to enter the army. To fit himself for this profession, he devoted much time to athletic exercises, and soon became remarkable for his military bearing. Those familiar with the appearance of Pius IX., as seen in St. Peter's, or the Sistine, will scarcely be prepared to hear that in his youth he was noted for his dandy dress, appearing always in a semi-military uniform, wearing boots and spurs, and seldom seen without a cigar in his mouth. Being very handsome, with a tolerable poet and good musician, he soon became an object of admiration to many, and of affection to some, girls; but, although more than one loved him, he aimed high and sought the hand of Elena, daughter of Prince Albani. This lady, who is said to have been extremely beautiful, at first encouraged young Mastai, but eventually married the Colonel of a regiment quartered at Sinigaglia, whom she was in the habit of meeting frequently at the reunions in her father's house. The disappointment was so severely felt by the young man, that, to alleviate his misery, he plunged into dissipation drank deeply, and gambled largely. About this juncture Napoleon's career had terminated. Pius VII. returned to Rome, and public affairs began to assume a tranquil phase. Accordingly, young Mastai, who was leading a very unsettled life, was sent to Rome, where two of his uncles resided, who, it was believed, were in a position to be of service to him.

Arriving in the capital, he engaged a very humble apartment, his allowance being only a few pounds a month. Nevertheless, so fascinating were his manners, and so handsome his person, that he soon became one of the most fashionable young men in Rome, and was a constant visitor in the palaces of the highest nobles in that city. A successful player at the card table his winnings enabled him to live in a manner that made him the envy of less fortunate youths, and led to love adventures not yet entirely forgotten in Rome.

But, though young Mastai was well pleased with the life he was leading, it was far from satisfying his parents, who naturally desired to see their son established in some honorable profession. Accordingly, as the military spirit still burned strongly in Gian-Maria, an attempt was made to satisfy it, to some extent at least, by placing him in the Guardia Nobile, which had been established immediately after the Congress of Vienna. His interest was sufficiently great to cause him to be enrolled as a candidate for admission to the corps, but a representation having been made to the Secretary of State that he was subject to epileptic fits, his name was removed from the list of candidates, and he was advised that he must not hope to be a Guardia Nobile. The intelligence overwhelmed him with sorrow, his spirits became depressed, a dangerous illness supervened, on his recovery from which—due, as his biographers declare, to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin—he determined on devoting his life to the cause of religion.

There are many still living in Rome who remember the sudden and extraordinary change in young Mastai. Discarding his fashionable costume, the neat boot and clanking spur gave place to thick shoes, the laced coat to a black soutane, and the jaunty step to a measured walk, with bent head and downcast eyes. At this period Mastai was twenty-four years old. Hard study followed, and finding that this, though pushed to excess, did not impair his health, but rather improved it—a change due more probably to an ab-

stemious life—he conceived that God especially called him to the work of priesthood, and having obtained the necessary medical permission to enter the church, he was ordained. His religious zeal now rapidly unfolded. Endowed with a peculiarly fine voice, well remembered by those who have had the pleasure of hearing him read the offices in St. Peter's or the Sistine Chapel, he studied elocution, practiced speaking extempore, and soon acquired such a mastery of language as to draw vast crowds whenever he ascended the pulpit. He was particularly brilliant in his *ferverini*—short, impassioned discourses, such as you may hear during the holy week at the Gesù—and carried his congregation entirely with him. Women who had admired Mastai as a youth of fashion, now hung on his words and buzzed around his confessional; strong-minded men, too, became weak before him, for he shook their souls by his pictures of the terrors in store for the wicked, simulating purgatorial flames by plunging his hands in burning spirits.

But, gratifying as all this was, the youthful priest sighed for more active occupation, and a more extensive sphere of usefulness. An opportunity was not long wanting. Pius VII. having decided on sending a politico-religious mission to Chile, Mastai applied to be appointed Secretary, and succeeded, though against the will of his family, in obtaining the appointment. The mission, headed by the Bishop of Civita de Castello, after a long and hazardous voyage, arrived at Buenos Ayres. The journey from that city to Chile was attended with great suffering, but, although the mission underwent many perils, they were productive of no other effect on the Secretary than that of causing him to desire to remain in the country; one reason doubtless being that his health so far from being impaired by the hardships and climate, was simply ameliorated. Indeed he has been heard more than once to say that he never enjoyed better health than during this period of his life; and now so entirely did he enter into the spirit of the undertaking that when his chief, discouraged by the ill success attending his efforts to convert the natives, determined on returning to Europe, Mastai was for remaining in Chile at all hazards, preferring even possible martyrdom to abandoning a measure to which he had committed himself.

On Mastai's return to Europe, Leo XII. filled the pontifical throne. This pontiff, naturally enthusiastic and energetic, testified his appreciation of Mastai's conduct by creating him Archbishop of Spoleto. When Gregory XVI. assumed the tiara, he was removed from Spoleto, and elected Cardinal and Bishop of Imola.

Though Mastai's early life was not by any means uneventful, yet the Romans knew but very little of him until he was elevated to the tiara. In grateful remembrance of the kindness of Pius VII. he assumed the name of Pio. Such, in outline, was the early life of the great highpriest at Rome—a man who, when he ascended the Papal throne, was hailed by the liberal party with a frenzy of enthusiasm, but who soon, by his policy, became the champion of Ultramontanism. In justice, however, let it be added that Pius IX. inherited an accumulation of difficulties, postponed and complicated by his predecessors.—*London Figaro*

A COLD-BLOODED MURDER.

David Leach, steward, and Thomas Ward, second mate on board the American brig *Ellen O. Phinney* of Portland, Maine, were taken before Commissioner Shields on Saturday on a charge of murdering, under circumstances of unusual brutality, Jack Shields, an Austrian sailor, while the vessel was laying in the harbor of Montevideo. The following are the facts as related by the seamen: The vessel was commanded by Capt. Boyd, who is also her owner. She cleared from Portland with a cargo of lumber, for Montevideo and a market. Her crew consisted of John Scott, first mate; Thomas Ward, second mate; David Leach, steward; a cook and three seamen. Montevideo was sighted at daybreak on the 9th of August. The vessel anchored off the mole, and while the captain was ashore selling his freight the first mate sent three men aloft to scrape the mainmast. A triangle was rigged for this purpose, and after a time Jack Shields, who spoke indifferent English, sang out to the man on deck who had charge of the halyards to "Lower away." The triangle was lowered a certain distance

when Jack shouted "Avast!" meaning that the triangle was low enough. The man on deck not understanding the Austrian kept on lowering, and Jack cried out, in a loud and angry tone, "What the—-are you doing? Make fast."

The first mate, hearing this, shouted, "Come down on deck, you son of a—." Jack answered, "Yes, yes, me come down." No sooner had he reached the deck than the mate attacked him, beat him about the head and face with an iron belaying pin and drawing blood.

Jack was taken by surprise and almost stunned, but recovering his presence of mind he grappled with the mate and threw him to the deck. At this moment the second mate, Thomas Ward, rushed forward picked up a heavy billet of wood and knocked the poor wretch down and belabored him until he became unconscious.

The mates then walked aft satisfied with their brutal work, and Jack staggered to his feet, covered with blood and with his knife in his right hand. Just then the steward stepped out of the cabin with a revolver in his hand, and advancing within four or five feet of Jack, deliberately shot him through the head. Poor Jack fell to the deck, his brains oozing from the pistol wound, and his blood gushing forth on the boards. The seamen, hearing the report of the pistol, ran aft, but were brought to a halt by the steward, who shouted, with an oath: "Don't move, you—, or I'll shoot you all!" The steward and mates then entered the cabin and drank copious draughts of rum, while the poor Austrian lay in his death agony, without comfort from any one.

In twenty minutes Jack was dead, and the captain, having been signaled for, hastened to his vessel, and, hearing what the steward had done, asked, in a careless tone, "Has he croaked?" "Yes sir," said the steward; "and I'm sorry its not all of them." "So am I," said the captain.

After a short consultation the steward went on board a Brazilian steamer, and from her to the brig *Edward* of Boston in which he reached Buenos Ayres, about twenty miles distant. The captain informed the American Consul, on the following day, of the death of Shields; but, though he had connived at the escape of the murderer, he disclaimed all knowledge of his whereabouts. No further action was taken, and the murdered man was hurriedly buried ashore.

The captain disposed of his cargo, shipped a quantity of hides for Miller & Houghton, of New York, and on the 10th of October sailed for Buenos Ayres. Two days afterward the murderer was cordially received on board by the captain and mates, and was installed in his former position on board the vessel, which in due course of time arrived at this city.

The murderer was under no apprehension of suffering for his crime. But justice was dogging his footsteps, and, owing to some remarks of the crew, he and the second mate were arrested on a charge of murder on the high seas. The sailors, James Pendelden, a Dane, John Peterson, a German, and Henry Solomon, were taken to Ludlow Street Jail, where they have been since confined to testify against the murderers.

The principal witnesses appeared in the United States building, but owing to the absence of the prisoner's counsel, Mr. Bell, the hearing was adjourned. David Leach, the murderer, is a native of Boston. He is low-sized, with dark, beetling eyebrows, fierce eyes, and has a villainous countenance.—*N. Y. Standard*.

Correspondence.

KANAB, Dec. 18, 1870.

Editor *Deseret News*:—Dear Brother: I send, by first chance, particulars of the recent melancholy loss of life in this place. On the morning of the 14th, at a quarter past four o'clock, we were alarmed by the cry of fire,—one of Bro. Levi Stewart's buildings in the N. W. corner of the fort was in flames. The building was used partly for storage, and also as a sleeping apartment for the boys. This building, with contents, were destroyed; also the adjoining kitchen room. The loss of property is between two and three thousand dollars, but far worse than this was the loss of life. At the first alarm, sister Margery Stewart, sprang from her bed and rushed into the flames before any one could prevent her, and was probably the first victim. Brother Eli H. Stout, son of Hon. Hosea Stout, escaped from the fire, bringing one of the little

boys. Brother Stout is badly burned about the face, shoulders, back and hands; but is now mending very rapidly, and we are sanguine he will recover. The little boy, Alonzo was not burned seriously. There perished in the fire six persons, viz: Margery Stewart, aged 38; Levi H., aged 22; Charles Courtland S., aged 14; Urban Van, aged 13; Heber Carlos, aged 9; Edward Lorenzo, aged 7. The first named is the wife of Elder Levi Stewart, and the remainder are his sons, three of which are by the wife who perished, one by his wife who is still living, and the eldest son is by his wife who died in the city some sixteen years ago.

How the fire originated, will probably never be known, for the guard was relieved at a quarter past three, at which time the wind was blowing strong from the north, but no sign of fire. The guard on duty at the time, neither saw nor heard anything, until the cry of fire. We did all that could be done to rescue the inmates of the building, but all in vain. There could not possibly, have been five minutes of time elapsed from the first discovery of fire, until the lives of the inmates were lost, and as soon as life was extinct, the wind ceased to blow entirely, and where the fire had spread into an adjoining house along the roof, we extinguished it with but little difficulty. As soon as the fire was all put out, the wind arose again and blew violently, during the night, the little boy, Alonzo awoke, and went to the creek to get a drink, and when he returned, he searched for fire to warm his feet, and found none.

Had it not been for the interposing hand of Providence perhaps the entire fort would have been destroyed and a number more of lives. The wind which almost invariably blows strong from the north during the night, and which was blowing at the time the guard was relieved,—suddenly fell. There was in the building, under the bed, two kegs of blasting powder, one of which was uncorked. The staves are blackened and charred, but the powder did not explode. Nearly all the persons in the fort were around the building, carrying water, and doing what they could to arrest the progress of the flames; but had the powder exploded, fire, death and destruction would have been hurled in every direction. We cannot help but thank God for manifesting Himself in our behalf. The family and friends all feel sad under the terrible bereavement, yet we feel that "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth," and that like Job when his fair sons were taken from him, the Lord is still the friend of Brother Stewart. Your brother as ever,

M. F. FARNSWORTH.

NOTICE!

JORDAN SILVER MINING CO'S OFFICE, SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 22d 1870. At a meeting of the Trustees of the said Company, held December 22d, an assessment was levied of fifteen dollars per share on the Capital Stock of said Company, payable on or before the 31st instant. Shareholders will please govern themselves accordingly. CHAS. H. HEMPSTEAD, Secretary.

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ESTRAYS!

No.

80. Dark Red BULL, coming two years old, bush of tail white, two underbits right ear, crop off left.
 88. Red Yearling HEIFER, little white under fore shoulders, M on left hip.
 90. Red HEIFER, about two years old, white belly, swallowfork in right ear.
 91. Red and White HEIFER, two years old, star in face, spot near right horn, swallowfork in right ear.
 92. Red HEIFER, about two years old, white belly, rump, tail and face, spot at root of each ear, underbit and slit in each ear.
 93. Red Roan Yearling HEIFER, red ears and nose, crop and underbit right ear, slit in left.
 94. Red Yearling STEER, crop off left ear, crop and swallowfork in right.
 95. Dark Red Yearling BULL, small slit in right ear.
 96. Black STEER, about two years old, white belly, under half crop and upperbit left ear, upper half crop right.
 101. Red STEER, coming two years old, white belly and bush of tail, slit in right ear, swallowfork and underbit in left, brand, supposed to be E F on left hip.
- Owners of the above are requested to prove property, pay charges and take them away, or they will be sold at public auction, on the 21st day of January 1871, at the St. George Estray Pound, to defray expenses.

JOHN PYMM, County Poundkeeper.
George, December 15th, 1870. s93-1 w47-2

\$1,000 REWARD

For any case of Blind Bleeding Itching, or Ulcerated Piles that *De Bing's Pile Remedy* fails to cure. It is prepared expressly to cure the Piles and nothing else, and has cured cases of over twenty years standing. Sold by all Druggists, Price, 1.00. LABORATORY, 142 FRANKLIN ST., BALTIMORE. w32 1y