

# Wonders of the Vatican, the Home of the Popes

RECENT events have directed the eyes of the civilized world toward the Vatican, that stupendous religious headquarters in Italy which has for centuries been famed as the heart of the Roman Catholic church. Outside of its clerical associations a romantic interest has long attached to the Vatican as the pope's self imposed place of imprisonment subsequent to the pontificate's loss of temporal power in 1870. In pursuance of his resolution not to set foot beyond the limits of the territory conceded to the church by the Italian authorities until these selfsame authorities acknowledged his sovereignty over his lost states, the pope established within the grounds of the Vatican a veritable court, maintained a papal guard—a small army—and surrounded himself by the highest dignitaries of the church. All of this cost a great deal of money. Indeed, nothing can give such an adequate idea of what the maintenance of the Vatican means as a statement of the expenses entailed upon the pontiff and the means whereby these expenses are met.

It is comparatively easy to arrive at an estimate of the former, but the question of the papal income presents some difficulties because outside of the pope himself probably not more than two men, the papal secretary of state and the papal minister of finance, know just how much money flows into the papal treasury every year. In discussing the expenditures of the Vatican one will inevitably be impressed by the complexity of the items to be considered. First and foremost the pope has to pay each of twenty-five cardinals an annual salary of \$5,000. These cardinals, known as curia cardinals, live in the Eternal City and act as ministers to the pope. In addition to these the pope maintains at foreign courts nuncios and legates, whose salaries, added to the sums paid to the curia cardinals, make a total of about \$200,000 every year. To the Vatican guards and gendarmes an annual stipend of nearly \$100,000 is allotted. Fifty thousand dollars more goes to the papal prolates and servants. The regular household, garden and stable expenses may be set down as approximating \$75,000. In addition to this probably \$50,000 is annually required to keep up the famous Vatican library, the museum and the galleries. The pope's personal expenses have been ridiculously small, averaging perhaps \$2,500 a year. Charities, repairs to St. Peter's, the expenses of the papal secretary of state and various contingent items make the grand total of Vatican disbursements about \$1,500,000.

The sources of the papal revenue are varied. When the Italians deprived Pius IX. of his temporal authority they offered him an annual subsidy of \$700,000, but this was indignantly rejected by the pope, whose successor, Leo XIII., also refused to touch the sub-

sidy, the arrangements of which now amount to nearly \$30,000,000. To make sure that his successors would not have

bles and pearls; over 200 gold crosses studded with precious stones of every variety; nearly 100 rings, including a magnificent circlet presented by the sultan and containing a blue diamond valued at \$250,000; 2,000 chalices, monstrances, pikes and vessels used in the ceremonies of the church, and many rare gifts from the faithful and from

the largest collections of classical statuary ever assembled.

It goes without saying that the edifice wherein all these treasures are stored and which the head of the church calls his home is no common structure. The Vatican is composed of an aggregation of buildings extending over an area of nearly fourteen acres—

papal secretary of state, while beneath the latter's dwelling quarters are the apartments occupied by the pope, the bedroom in its simplicity testifying strongly to the nature and tastes of its latest occupant.

The Vatican also includes twenty courts and seventeen chapels for the various clerical dignitaries, the chief chapel being the famous Sistine, where in Leo XIII. was crowned, where he said mass on many special occasions and where are to be found the immortal frescoes of Michael Angelo and his greatest painting, "The Last Judgment." This picture unfortunately was

illustrate the immensity of the Vatican buildings than a brief summary of what took place at the great house cleaning two years ago. The Vatican had not enjoyed a thorough scrubbing for over 400 years, and it probably would not have been touched then, since to all appearances it was perfectly clean, but the pope's well known physician, Dr. Lippini, convinced his holiness that the germs of many diseases were lurking on the walls and in the crannies of the 11,000 rooms. An order to employ cleaners was forthwith issued, and an army of workmen and workwomen at once invaded the sacred precincts. It is reported that the 3,000 people employed daily removed 20,000 pounds of dirt from the halls, chambers, staircases and corridors, their labors continuing for eight months. Sometimes the air was black with dust from the tops of wardrobes and cornices. Over 2,000 scrubbing brushes were rendered hors de combat weekly, as well as 1,000 brooms, 5,000 pounds of soap and 2,000 pounds of soda. The total cost of the overhauling was put at \$300,000, probably the largest sum ever spent for the same purpose.

No account of the Vatican is complete without some mention of the famous garden and park wherein Leo XIII. spent so many happy hours. Magnificently laid out, it boasts some beautiful villas, in which the pope was accustomed to take refuge from the heat of the sun. Of these villas the best known is the so called Leonine tower, near which was a vineyard containing a pavilion where Leo rested on his walks. One of the prettiest features of the park is the presence of deer so tame that each would go fearlessly to the pope when he called it by name and eat from his hand. It was this park that made the self imposed imprisonment of Leo endurable, for with its winding roads and walks it was large enough to give him plenty of exercise and variety of scene. During the summer months he was wont to drive through it daily whenever the weather would permit.

A curious interest attaches to the fact that when the Italian parliament deprived the pontiff of his temporal power it extended to him the right of what is known in diplomatic language as "extraterritoriality" over the Vatican and its grounds. This meant that the pope was to have sole jurisdiction over everything that occurred in his domain and that no civil officer could for any reason effect an entrance into the Vatican. Thus during the house cleaning several hundred petty thieves who were caught red handed were brought before Leo for judgment and were sentenced by him to various terms of imprisonment, a pardon immediately following every sentence. But, as may readily be understood, the offenders were no longer retained in the service of the pope.

ELBERT O. WOODSON.

## AN ODD FREAK OF LIGHTNING STROKE.

The much bedraggled individual shown in the illustration has not been through a cyclone or a dynamite explosion, but has had a far more thrilling experience than that furnished by either of these agencies of destruction.



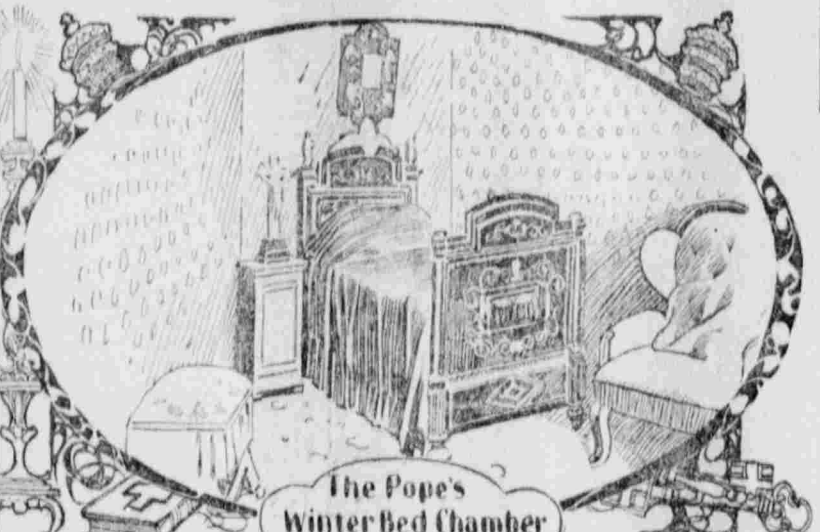
He is the victim of a flash of lightning, which, although it tore his clothes to shreds, left him unharmed. Needless to say, however, he doesn't want any more lightning strokes to come his way and, indeed, considers himself immune on the strength of the old saying that lightning never strikes twice in the same place.

### PROOF POSITIVE.

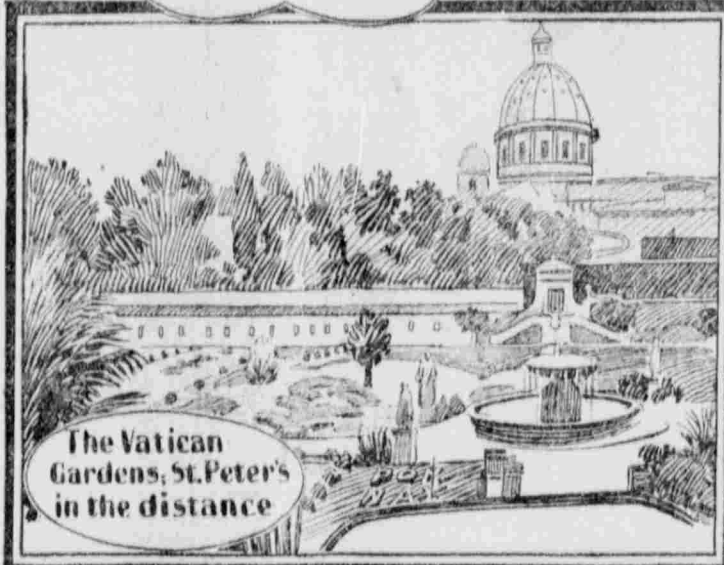
"What are the great and opposite effects produced by the different actions of heat and cold?" inquired an examiner of one of the candidates. "Heat, sir," replied the youth, "has the effect of to expand, while cold, on the contrary, contracts." "Very well," said the schoolmaster. "And can you state any fact within your own experience to prove this?" "Yes, sir. When the weather is hot the days are much longer and when colder they are a good deal shorter."



Street Entrance of the Vatican



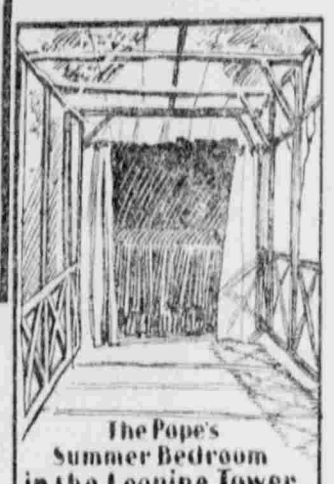
The Pope's Winter Bed Chamber



The Vatican Gardens, St. Peter's in the distance



The Leonine Tower in the Vatican Grounds



The Pope's Summer Bedroom in the Leonine Tower

seriously damaged by the dampness of the chapel and the cracking of the walls. Perhaps nothing will serve better to

to meet a financial crisis Pius created a contingent fund of \$5,000,000, which was largely increased by the wise investments of Leo. The income from this source alone going far to meet the expenses of maintaining the Vatican. Another important means of revenue is the Peter's pence, really a revival of an old tax collected in the bishoprics of the Christian world. Every year since Cardinal Manning devised this method of adding the papal finances a collection has been taken up in the Catholic churches of all countries, the contributions of the faithful being carried to Rome by the bishops of the dioceses. It is interesting to note that Italy, Austria and Spain, the three great Catholic kingdoms of Europe, are the smallest contributors to Peter's pence, while three-fourths of the total donation comes annually from the two republics, the United States and France. Even Ireland, despite its poverty, gives twenty times as much as does Italy, the country of cardinals. A third source of revenue is the gifts presented to the pope by those visitors from all quarters of the world to whom he grants private audiences. The income from this source, however, is generally considered the personal property of the pontiff. The wealth of the Vatican is largely increased by the wonderful treasures stored beneath its roof in the way of jewels, books and rare manuscripts. In the collection of jewels are twenty tiaras, set in diamonds, emeralds, ru-

Protestant admirers of the pontiff. The distribution of this vast collection after his death became a great source of anxiety to Leo XIII. as he advanced in years. It is safe to say that there are few collections in the world equal to it in value. Almost the same thing might be said of the great library, which contains some of the most beautiful hand illuminated manuscripts extant, in addition to thousands upon thousands of rarities dear to the heart of the bibliophile. The Vatican also holds one of

buildings which have been gradually added through the passing centuries. Including the quarters of the Swiss guard, the stables, the storerooms, the mosaic and other workshops, there is a total of 11,000 rooms in this great series of buildings. Eight large staircases and 200 smaller ones run to the upper apartments, the highest being seven stories from the ground. The papal minister of finance has his apartments on the top floor of the Vatican just above the rooms occupied by the

## UNIQUE PHASES OF LIFE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

### PORTRAIT OF A RATTLESNAKE.

The photograph herewith reproduced is one of the most remarkable and life-like portraits of a rattlesnake ever ob-



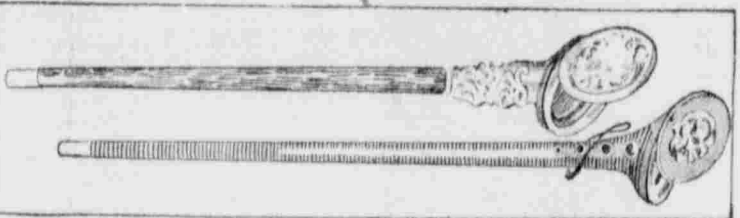
tained by the camera man. The photographer was but a few yards away from his subject when he snapped it in a favorable pose. As will be seen, his snakeship is ready for action.

### BURIAL OF BULGARIAN REVOLUTIONISTS.



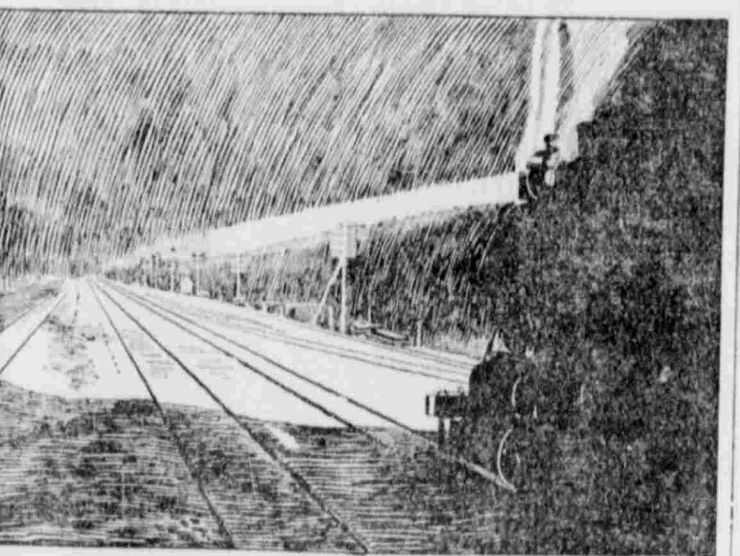
The photograph from which the illustration was made was snapped during the interment of fifteen Bulgarian revolutionists who had been slain in a conflict with Turkish regular troops at Gradibor, not far from Salonika.

### CANE PURSE THE LATEST FAD.



Fashionable circles have adopted a new fad—the cane purse, which consists of a cane or stick about a foot and a half long, surmounted by a small receptacle for money. The purse is made from fancy and variegated woods and boasts mountings to correspond with the taste or means of its fair owner. Many of the smart set are adopting it as an accessory to street dress, and it is daily gaining in popularity.

### THE LATEST IN LOCOMOTIVE HEADLIGHTS.



An enterprising railway company has equipped its engines with a new type of headlight, which it is believed will go far to reduce the risk of collisions at night. The new headlight is an electrical one which not only sends a powerful ray along the tracks in front of the engine, but projects a strong vertical ray which can be seen for miles.

### PONTOON BRIDGE BUILT BY GERMAN SOLDIERS.



One of the most interesting features of the recent maneuvers of the German army on the manna drill grounds at Doberitz, not far from Berlin, was the passage of the troops over the Havel river by means of a pontoon bridge hurriedly thrown together by the pioneers of the Imperial guard. The head on, so that the bridge will not be wrecked by the stream. After all the troops had safely made the passage the pioneers broke the bridge in remarkably quick time. Large crowds from Berlin and neighboring towns watched the operation with great interest.

### AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPRESS OF CHINA.



At last the outside world has an opportunity to see just what the empress dowager of China looks like. The pictures which have hitherto purported to show us the features of the wily old lady of the Celestial Kingdom have depicted her either as merely homely or as passably good looking, but the accompanying illustration of an audience with her serene majesty, made from a sketch drawn by Frederick McCormick, an artist who participated in the audience, shows her to be in reality a hideous old woman, with features that indicate not one good trait. The talonlike finger nails of the empress may be deemed symbolical of the hawklike disposition with which she is generally credited.

### THE NEXT KING OF SERBIA.

Anything is liable to happen in Serbia, but unless the fates in the form of Obrenovitch adherents intervene the young subject of the accompanying illustration will succeed to the Serbian throne.

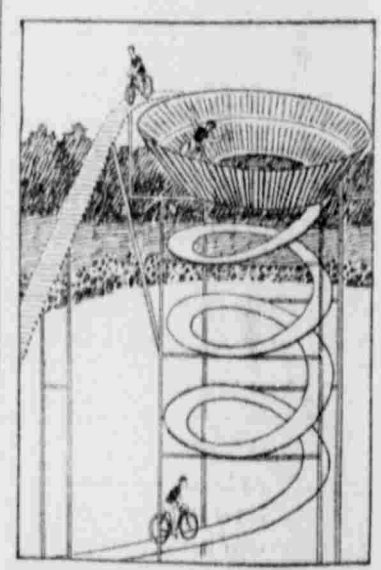


PRINCE GEORGE KARAGEORGEVITCH.

throne on the death of his father, King Peter, who only recently acquired his regal bauble at the cost of a score of lives, including that of the reigning monarch, Alexander. Little Prince George until recently was hard at work in a military school in St. Petersburg learning how to put down rebellions in short order.

### PERILOUS BICYCLING.

Many sensational feats have been devised by adepts in trick bicycling, but it is seldom one quite so thrilling as that shown in the accompanying illustration. The rider slowly winds his way up the spiral, enters the circle, around which he dashes at a tremendous rate of speed, and then



suddenly shoots down the inclined stairs, this completing his exhibition. Parisians have gone wild over the performance, and it will undoubtedly create a sensation when it is brought over to this country.

### NEW COMMANDER IN SOMALILAND.



SIR CHARLES COMYN EGERTON.

Sir Charles Comyn Egerton, who superseded General Manning in command of the British expeditionary force in Somaliland as a result of the latter's failure to crush the Mad Mullah, is well known as aide-camp to King Edward. Sir Charles has lately been in command of the Punjab frontier district and has had great experience in active service. Among the military events in which he has played a part might be cited the march to Kandahar, the Hazara expeditions of 1884 and 1885, the Wazir campaign of 1894 and 1895 and the operations against the Darweesh Kheyl Waziris last year, when he was in command of the British troops engaged.

### FIREMEN'S QUEER PET.

Firemen are noted for indulging themselves in all sorts of odd hobbies and pets, but one of the strangest is the tree shown in the accompanying illustration. When the plot was sold



for the purpose of erecting a fire hall the owner expressly stipulated that the hall should be built in such a way that the tree would not be cut down, and the result has been the unique architectural effect shown in the illustration. The firemen think the world and all of the tree.

Machinery for the Norway tunnel power house is being shipped from America by an electric company of Pittsburgh.

### AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Vienna has been called the birthplace of trusts. The first was formed there in 1873. Trusts now control practically the whole trade of the city. The surplus profit on the Glasgow International exhibition was \$100,000. In Finland reindeer are worth only about \$7.50 a head. One of these ani-

mals recently covered 120 miles in a day. The United Kingdom spends \$4,400,000 per annum on repairs. On a round trip the Deutschland of the Hamburg-American line aggregated \$200,000 in passenger fares alone. Westmorland held last year's record

as the healthiest county in England. Only 12.9 per 1,000 of her inhabitants died. The most expensive wine in the world is some 173 madeira recovered from a wreck in the Scheldt in 1911. It was sold at \$570 a bottle. Fifty dollars was recently given to every Russian soldier and sailor now on the active list who served in the

Russo-Turkish war twenty-five years ago. The ordinary howitzer or siege gun weighs 2,500 pounds and is 6 feet 10 inches long. A returned miner from the Klondike states that at a depth of 225 feet he found the ground frozen hard. The disastrous effect of the drought in Australia may be judged by the fact

that 125,000 sheep were recently sold at Albury, N. S. W., at from sixpence to a shilling a head. There are at least 1,750,000 Freemasons in the world, of whom 150,000 belong to 3,433 British lodges. In a late issue of a London paper a body has been discovered clothed in the fashion of the beginning of the last century. It is supposed to be that of an

excise man who disappeared about the time of Waterloo. On a sunken coal lighter being raised from Colombo harbor recently, its bottom was found to be covered with pearls. Their value more than paid for the cost of the salvage operations. A raindrop—one-twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter—cannot fall at a greater pace than thirteen feet per second.

Raindrops seldom exceed one-eighth of an inch in diameter. While a child was playing on the floor of a house at Costeshti, Roumania, some turkeys strayed in. One of them flew on to the bed, and its wings, flapping against the trigger of a gun hanging on the wall, exploded the charge, which entered the child's head and killed it.