



THE PRESENT CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES IS REMARKABLE IN MANY WAYS; OF THE THREE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE TWO HOUSES WHICH HELP TO MAKE THE NATION'S LAWS DURING THIS SESSION, OVER TWO HUNDRED OF THEM HAVE SERVED BEFORE. MANY AND WHICH ARE TO BE DISCUSSED THIS YEAR, AND ALREADY THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES ARE AT WORK UPON THE BILLS WHICH SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. MUST BE PUT THROUGH THE

### THIRTY TONS OF RARE TREASURES.

The Vatican at Rome Contains More Gold Than Has Ever Been Found in the Regions of the Klondike.

There is one place in the world where more gold is to be found than has so far come out of the Klondike. And, stranger still, in the same place, there are more diamonds and other gems than the total output of the South African diamond fields. This spot, rich as the mythical wealth of Aladdin's palace, is the home of a childless old man, whose feeble life is creeping daily to its imminent close. Who can he be, this solitary man, whose possessions are as vast and valuable as those of Monte Cristo? He is no less a person than Pope Leo XIII, born Giacomo Pecci, of a noble but poor family of Cupertino, Italy, who entered upon his pontificate with almost nothing of worldly possessions, and still lives the life of a recluse, eating sparingly, and whose bedroom is furnished more humbly than the home of many a day laborer in this country. His home, however, is in the Vatican, a palace that contains 5,000 rooms, and within which are stored treasures that eclipse the wealth of the Klondike.

It would be difficult to estimate precisely the total weight of gold in the Vatican, but it is safe to say that there are at least thirty tons of it, worth in the neighborhood of \$50,000,000 at the present market price of the wrought metal.

Of this huge amount of gold, there is probably not a single pound of the metal that remains in its virgin state. Nearly every ounce of it has passed through the hands of skilled artisans, who have worked it into countless forms, thus adding perhaps a third or a quarter more to its value. Nor does the alloy that is usually employed by the goldsmith to give a durable quality to objects made of the precious metal enter at all into the composition of the treasures of the Vatican, which, being almost entirely native offerings to the Sovereign Pontiff, are literally of solid gold.

Here, therefore, is an isolated corner of the city of Rome, about ten acres of land, which are perhaps richer than any similar amount of territory in as much of the universe as has ever been explored.

**HIS PERSONAL ESTATE.**  
The Vatican treasures may be practically considered as the personal estate of the Pope. He inherited many of them when he was elected to the Holy See. He is required to give an account of his stewardship at his pleasure. To a large proportion of these treasures his personal right is indisputable, for to him Leo XIII. were presented at various times, and more particularly on the occasion of his jubilee in 1883, enough gifts of pure gold to ransom a kingdom.

The golden chalices alone that are kept in the storehouses of the Vatican would probably represent a value nearly as great as the sum total of the Klondike's product. Quite two-thirds of these were in the Papal palace when Leo was elected to the chair of Peter in 1878, and the precious stones in most of them magnify their value many fold. They were for the most part gifts of sovereigns or nations to the reigning Pontiff. The treasures inherited by the present Pope also embraced archiepiscopal and pontifical crosses and pectoral crosses of gold, studded with gems; various altar ornaments—used in the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament—that shine like the sunlight, and the vestments for the celebration of the Mass, each and every article heavy with the gold employed in its fabrication or decoration.

The Pontificate of the present venerable Pontiff has added inestimably to the treasures of the Vatican. Jan. 1, 1883, Leo recited the Mass in St. Peter's in Rome, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest. The preliminary ceremonies of his Golden Jubilee began about a week earlier, and continued for more than a month in the new year, during which time an exposition was opened in the vast Pontifical palace for the display of the presents that had been sent to the head of the Christian Church from every corner of the world.

Before the exposition was opened tons upon tons of gold poured into the Vatican, beginning early in December of 1882, and continuing without intermission until after the exposition had been closed in March of the following year. There was scarcely an object received in which the metal universally appropriate to the fiftieth anniversary did not figure in some form and proportion.

At the Jubilee Mass alone \$3,000,000 in gold, the most part in coined money were presented to His Holiness. There were audiences of pilgrims from the various countries, and those from France alone presented to the Pope \$100,000 in gold coin, besides many other objects in wrought gold.

The Duke of Norfolk, Envoy Extraordinary from Queen Victoria, presented to His Holiness on behalf of the Catholics of England, a massive basin and ewer of solid gold. Her British Majesty personally presented an altar ornament of gold worth many thousands of dollars. The Emperor of Russia sent a mammoth cross of solid gold, inlaid with precious stones, and the Emperor William of Germany, a gold mitre that blazed with diamonds and rubies.

**ROYAL GIFTS.**  
The Emperors of Austria, Turkey, China and Japan and the lesser monarchs or chiefs of state of Europe, America, Asia and Africa paid tribute to the venerable Pontiff, in priceless articles wrought of the rare metal. Don Pedro, of Brazil, sent a pectoral cross sixteen inches long of the purest gold ever mined in his empire, and huge diamonds added to the weight of the massive gift.

The total value of the Golden Jubilee gifts to the Pope was estimated at \$14,500,000, of which \$2,800,000 were in gold coin.

Why do American heiresses go abroad to capture European titles when such an excellent opportunity to become duchesses, countesses and baronesses lies close at hand?

In the diplomatic corps in Washington there are scores of titled gentlemen, some of them scions of the most aristocratic houses of the continent.

If rumor is reliable they are not averse to selecting American damsels whose papas are well provided with the treasures of this world.

In fact there is a tradition that the diplomats of the old world prefer American wives. They believe them to be more clear-sighted, sharp-witted and self-reliant than their European sisters. American girls hold some of the highest posts of honor in the old-world courts. But two need special mention—the wife of Count von Waldersee, the German Field Marshal lately chosen to command the international troops in China, and Lady Curzon, the wife of the Viceroy of India.

In Washington some of the most important missions are in the hands of diplomats with American wives. The Spanish Minister has a charming wife, who was Miss Virginia Lowery, of Washington. The Minister from the Netherlands, Baron W. A. F. Gevers, who during the past winter trod a slippery path owing to the intense feeling in this country regarding the Boers, is the son of that Dutch Minister of thirty years who married Miss Catherine Wright of New Jersey.

**TITLED BACHELORS.**  
Thirty-four nations send Ambassadors or Ministers Plenipotentiary to Washington, the largest number ever yet attained. In this resplendent procession there are scores of bachelors. Those who make social problems a study say that these young diplomats are sent for the purpose of encouraging international alliances. Every year there are marriages between members of the foreign corps and the belles of American cities. But the supply is equal to the demand.

In the ambassadorial corps are two distinguished gentlemen who have repelled Cupid's darts—the representative of His Majesty Wilhelm II. of Germany, Herr Theodore von Holleben, and the envoy of the Czar, Arthur Cassini. Both are past sixty and even the most hopeful must hesitate before counting them among Washington's matrimonial eligibles.

They are very interesting in other ways, however, and they hold much power in their hands. It is encouraging to know that Count Cassini is an admirer of American women. He believes in the efficacy of the bond between Russia and America which results from such marriages.

In the Russian Embassy are three bachelors, Messrs. Alexander Zolony, Pierre Rogestvensky and M. Roubtkevsky, who though they have no titles are considered first-class diplomats, and to succeed in this great art means wealth, name and fame when you are serving the Czar.

Two years ago the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy, M. Gregoire de Wollant, married Miss Helen Tisdale, of Washington. This marriage, as Count Cassini says all Russian-American marriages are, has proved happy, and the De Wollants are among the most sought after people at the capital.

Dr. von Holleben, although at Heidelberg he was the hero of many affairs of the heart and bears on his face the red badge of courage obtained through them, is not an advocate of matrimony. But if his attaches insist on getting married he gives them the advice of Hiawatha's grandmother, "Choose a maiden of your people." Futilely, however, for the Ger-



POPE LEO XIII. BEING TAKEN UP TO HIS ROOM IN THE ELEVATOR OF THE VATICAN. THIS IS THE HANDSOMEST ELEVATOR IN THE WORLD, BEING MADE OF RARE WOODS SKILFULLY CARVED, AND HAVING MOUNTINGS OF SILVER AND GOLD.



IN THE DECLINING YEARS OF HIS LONG AND USEFUL LIFE HIS HOLINESS INDULGES IN ONLY ONE AMUSEMENT—AN OCCASIONAL GAME OF CHESS. THIS IS PLAYED UPON A TABLE PRESENTED TO THE POPE BY A EUROPEAN RULER. THE TABLE IS MADE OF MOTHER-OF-PEARL INLAIN WITH FINE GOLD. FATHER GIULIO, WHO PLAYS WITH HIS HOLINESS, IS HIS ONLY OPPONENT, AND HAS ENJOYED THIS DISTINCTION FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

### TITLED BACHELORS AT THE CAPITAL.

Famous Diplomats of the Old World Who Would Lay Their Hearts at the Feet of Fair Americans.

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man Embassy has furnished many of the latest international romances. Baron von Ketteler, who was murdered in China, was formerly a secretary to this country and went from Washington to represent Germany at the Chicago Fair, where he met his future wife, Miss Leyland, Count von Goetzen was military attaché of the Washington Embassy when he married Mrs. William A. Lay, of Philadelphia. Mr. Adolph von Breunigen met and married Mrs. Gordon McKay while serving the Kaiser in Washington.

**SPLENDID CATCHES.**  
The German Embassy possesses several of the most desirable parties. Foremost is the brilliant Baron Speck von Sternberg, who acted as German Commissioner at Samoa and who is now Charge d'Affaires of the embassy. He was formerly in the German navy.

Baron von Sternberg belongs to an old family which boasts of castles and broad estates. Owing to the discovery of salt mines on their lands the Von Sternbergs are among the wealthiest of the German nobility.

Baron von Herman, the handsomest member of the corps, has talent and wealth. Count von Haacke is a prime favorite in Washington drawing rooms.

Brun, who comes from the land of the sagas and the Norse gods, an according to rumor succumbed to the charms of a pretty Washington debutante, and his marriage may be one of the features of the coming winter.

Baron Gevers is a clever diplomat whose American mother has inspired him with devotion towards our land. This gentleman has been in America but a few months, so matrimonial rumors regarding him are premature. He is attached to his mother, whom he calls the queen of women; perhaps he is hopeful of finding her counterpart.

An envoy from Nicaragua is a bachelor, Dr. Luis F. Corea. He has spent his entire diplomatic career in the United States, coming first as Second Secretary of the Greater Republic of Central America, and afterward acting as Charge d'Affaires.

In the British Embassy Sir Charles Elliot, the British Commissioner to Samoa, is a notable figure. He is young, talented and handsome, has a good income and is able to bestow a title on the lady of his choice. His career has been almost meteoric, and there is no doubt that before many years he will be at the head of one of the important diplomatic posts of Great Britain.

Mr. Gerard A. Lowther belongs to the famous family of which the Earl of Londale is the head. Mr. Lowther may succeed to a title should his eldest brother die childless.

Mr. W. G. Max-Muller is a bachelor secretary of Great Britain and so is Mr. Herman C. Norman, the "best dressed man of three capitals."

France has a number of bachelors, all welcome additions to drawing rooms and clubs. M. Eugene Thebaud, the Charge d'Affaires, is somewhat delicate and does not accept many invitations. M. Oliver Taigny is a brilliant young diplomat famous for his bon-mots and comic songs. A new member of the Embassy is M. Antoine de Godfroy, whose mother was Miss Catherine Riggs, a daughter of the Washington banker George A. Riggs. This marriage to the Minister from France during the civil war was one of the notable events of the times. M. Godfroy was born in Peking while his father was Minister to China.



BARON VON SPECK VON STERNBERG, WHO IS WHOLE-HEARTED, FANCY FREE AND POSSESSES BOTH FAMILY ESTATES AND TITLES.

**King Humbert's Fortune.**  
The late King Humbert has left a very handsome patrimony, which is estimated at from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000.

In the twenty-two years of his reign King Humbert put aside at least \$200,000 a year from his civil list the greater part of which he spent in acquiring vast estates in Piedmont, and also in the neighborhood of Rome and Monza.

These estates are the best cultivated in Italy, for the King was an agriculturist of the first order. His private domain at Monza can compare with the finest in the world.

The King's object in passing the hottest months of the year in Monza (which has the hottest summer climate of any town in Italy) was to devote himself to the care of his model farm.



COUNT CASSINI, THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THIS COUNTRY. HE IS ONE OF THE FAMOUS BACHELORS OF THE CAPITAL, AND HAS A BEAUTIFUL NIECE, WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE A COUNTESS BY THE CZAR OF RUSSIA.