

# THE LATE CARDINAL MERTEL.

Was the Oldest Member of the Sacred College—At One Time a Well-Known Ecclesiastic.

Foreign Correspondence NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, July 12.—News reached Rome yesterday of the death of Cardinal Theodolphus Mertel at Allumiere, the Cardinal's home, early yesterday afternoon.

The Cardinal, who was the oldest member of the Sacred College, was born at Allumiere, a small town in the Talfa Mountains, near Civitavecchia, on Feb. 9, 1806. His career was a brilliant one, and he was formerly one of the best-known figures in the affairs and government of the Roman Church. As early as 1830 he was President of the Civic Tribunal at Rome. In 1848 he distinguished himself on the Commission for Reform instituted that year by Pope Pius IX. He soon after compiled the celebrated statutes of the Pontifical States. In the year following he was elected a member of Antonelli's first Ministry, and after the republic, the Council of Ministers being reconstituted, he was nominated a Minister, without a portfolio. On March 15, 1858, he was created a Cardinal by Pope Pius IX. During the five years preceding he held the position of Minister of the Interior, one of the highest posts existing at the time.

Cardinal Mertel, like Cardinal Antonelli, was never ordained a priest, and gave most of his time to the study of civil and canonical law, in both of which subjects he was an authority. With him passed away one more of the few remaining members of the older set of Cardinals, and Cardinal Canossa now steps into his place as senior member of the Sacred College. Cardinal Canossa is a year older than Leo XIII., and, like Cardinal Mertel, has retired from any very active participation in outward affairs of the Church.

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