

C. I. I.

The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite quae sunt Caesaris, Caesaris; et quae sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt. 22: 21.

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CONTENTS.

NOTES	195
CONTRIBUTED—	
Trinity Sunday	G. M. Ward 197
Rev. Mother Delphac	M. M. B. 193
The Harp; Its Antiquity	194
Montreal Gossip	Old Mortality 193
SELECTED ARTICLES—	
The Convert	Hon. P. H. Burnett 193
Catholic Ireland	199
EDITORIAL—	
The Nationalists and the Ten Commandments	200
Lord Lansdowne and the Orangemen	200
The Cross, and Protestants	200
The Papal Rescript	201
Archbishop Walsh's Letter	201
The Constant Attitude of the Holy See	201
CURRENT CATHOLIC THEOLOGY—	
Reverence	203
Missionaries to the Methodists	203
CATHOLIC AND LITERARY NOTES	
CANADIAN CHURCH NEWS	202
Ex-Monk Widows	199

entitled to be called "the foundress of our new American University." A cablegram was received from the Sovereign Pontiff conveying his congratulations and the Apostolic Benediction.

"There are few of us," says Laclede, "who understand the essence of religion, and hence these vagaries. Every now and then we are treated to a definition. Matthew Arnold has it: 'Morality touched with emotion.' Rather neat, but only half truth, as most of this writer's sayings, that had no clear philosophy. Herbert Spencer has his notion too. According to him religion is 'Propitiation by sacrifice. The origin of all religion is traced to the worship of departed ancestors. Altars are only modified tombs.' It is a cheerful doctrine, to say the least.

The most of us shall rest content with simple faith. We may throw in a dash of sentiment and a little fancy, that is, we may make our religion, which is righteousness, have all our faculties as handmaidens, and thus give our all in all to the Maker of all. Some people will quote the Laureate, with a smile of triumph:—

There lives more faith in honest doubt,
Believe me, than in half the creeds.

Not so, O Bard that art not thyself a sceptic. The mind cannot feed on negatives. Faith is what we want, with our good works, and thus only we get that peace which surpasseth all understanding."

NOTES.

Anthony Comstock, the secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, and a noisy defender of public morals, who partially endorsed, it will be remembered, the infamous book "Why Priests should Wed," and stood between its author and his criminal prosecution, has been arrested in New York on a charge of blackmail and conspiracy. The arrest is the outcome of the Philadelphia *Herald's* investigation and exposure of the secretary of the Vice Society's workings. The New York papers agree that if the *Herald* prove its very serious charges it is time that the public should act, and that Comstock be subjected to exemplary punishment. New York Catholic papers have all along regarded him as a low bigot.

The message telegraphed from Rome by Archbishop Walsh to the Corporation of Dublin came as a timely reply to and correction of the clause in the manifesto put forth by the Irish Catholic Members of Parliament, in which they reassert that "Irish Catholics can recognize no right in the Holy See to interfere in the management of their political affairs." In his message the Archbishop of Dublin said: "Assure the Municipal authorities of Dublin that all apprehension of interference by the Holy See in Irish political affairs is groundless. The cause of Ireland has nothing to fear from Leo XIII. Accept my most distinct assurance upon this point. Protest by all means at your command and in the strongest terms against the action of hostile journals, which insult the Holy See by representing the Pontiff as a political partisan, and at the same time make it plain that Irishmen and Catholics you are not to be misled by any such devices of the enemies of the nationality and faith of Ireland."

On Thursday, the 24th ult., Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, the corner-stone of the first building of the new American Catholic University, to be erected near Washington, was laid by his Eminence Cardinal Gibbons. Among the prelates present were Archbishops Williams, Ryan, Salpointe, Elder, and Ireland; Bishops Spalding, Keane, Ryan, Northrop, Bourke, Gilmour, Machebeuf, Brondel, Janssens, Phelan, Kaid, O'Reilly, O'Sullivan, Moore, Maes, and McGovern. The President and Cabinet were also in attendance. The address of the occasion was delivered by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Spalding. A feature of the exercises was the presentation of the gold medal sent by the Holy Father to Miss Mary Caldwell, who had contributed so liberally towards the foundation of the University. The presentation was made by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Keane, in an address in which he declared that the generous lady was

The Archbishop's meaning is unmistakable, and this assurance of the non-political nature of the recent rescript should allay the uneasiness and remove the misapprehension that followed its issuance. In view of his representations, the violent language of Messrs. O'Brien and Davitt must, we think, appear wholly unjustifiable. It is very unfortunate that these gentlemen, however well-meaning, should so readily lose their heads.