

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

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

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Meredith proposes for these schools, would end their usefulness.

THE REVIEW, has never before permitted itself to offer any opinion regarding the merits or demerits of any political party. A partisan word has never yet appeared in its pages. And so far as party politics enter into the present contest we are in no wise concerned with it. Did no other element enter into the elections we should regard it as a question of the *Ins* and the *Outs*, as simply, a choice between Codlin and Short. For that reason though THE REVIEW opposes Mr. Meredith, as under the circumstances it would be an abandonment of its duty not to do, it is no partisan of Mr. Mowat's. The Catholic minority never received from his Government more than their bare rights; and to these it was entitled. But the programme of Mr. Meredith, it is undeniable, is a direct assault upon the minority's rights of conscience and of citizenship, and as such, we believe, it will be resisted.

It is perhaps a fortunate thing not alone for the minority in Ontario but for the unity of the country, that it lies not within the power of Mr. Meredith or any set of men returned to the Provincial Legislature, to disturb constitutional guarantees. The Fathers of Confederation were wise when they removed these safeguards beyond range of small-bore politicians. It is not to be feared that Mr. Meredith will ever accomplish his purpose, but it is not to be concealed that the attempt is certain to produce deplorable consequences.

THE *Weekly Register* reviewing the question of the final effects of the increasing prevalency of the divorce evil in America, arrives at this conclusion: "Here, then, are the Seylla and Charybdis of modern American society. The Mormon view will, for the present, go to the wall, simply because it gives the greater shock to the moral sense. It is the more directly and obviously pagan of the two. But the public good sense will by degrees 'assert itself,' by realizing that between these two godless systems there is only a difference of degree. The public conscience, meanwhile, may awake to the fact that one organization exists on earth, which equally denounces either; upholding the law of God, whatever may be the social or political consequences involved, and consulting alike the moral dignity of Christian man and woman, and the sanctity, the peace and happiness of Christian family life."

Notes.

THE Provincial elections are announced to take place in Ontario on the 5th of June, and already both parties in the contest are fairly well advanced in the work of electoral organization. THE REVIEW has waited, before putting forward any opinion in regard to the contest, until Mr. Meredith had held the opening meeting of his campaign in Toronto, in order to learn from his later and more responsible utterances, the lines upon which the approaching elections were to be fought out, and whether there was to be any departure from the policy, any abandonment of the purposes, which he announced as those of himself and his colleagues in the speech delivered at London a few months ago. Mr. Meredith's speech in this city on Tuesday, however, gave no reason to hope that there will be now any abandonment of the programme formulated—whether by accident or design—just at that juncture of affairs when the fanaticism and bad feeling, springing from the agitation against Separate Schools and the teaching of the French language, had attained its highest pitch—or lowest pitch—in Ontario. The leader of the Opposition has adopted, so far as we can judge, in its entirety the Equal Rights programme; he has declared himself as wholly opposed to the principle, or the continuance, of the Separate Schools in the Province; and his pledges if they amount to anything,—and we have no reason to believe that Mr. Meredith's pledges are not made in earnest—commit him to the securing, if by any legislative representations it be possible, the abolition of the Separate School system, and, till such abolition can be secured, to a system of state supervision and interference as will, so far as Catholic interest in these schools is concerned, practically end their utility, and the chief reason for being that belongs to them at present. We may as well say that we have no doubt whatever that one year of such management as Mr.