

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

*Reddito quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.*

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## Notes.

THE *Osservatore Romano* publishes in a recent number a letter of Leo XIII., addressed on the 10th of last month to Cardinal Parocchi, Vicar to His Holiness, and president of the committee organized to celebrate the centenary of Pope Gregory the Great in the Eternal City. In it the most cordial approbation is expressed of the pious idea.

In a clear and earnest exposition of his social faith, Count de Mun, the celebrated advocate of the French workingmen, declares that he is in favour of compulsory state insurance for labourers, and he believes that the Government should regulate the hours of labour. However, he holds that these things have nothing to do with the great monopoly called State Socialism.

LAST Tuesday evening the Rt. Rev. Bishop Keane, rector of the Catholic University, delivered a lecture in the basement of St. John's church, Baltimore. His subject was "The Woos and the Glories of Erin." The lecture was under the auspices of St. John's Branch of the Emerald Beneficial Association. Among other the Bishop said: "Ireland's banner will trail in the dust till clean hands raise it aloft again. The land of purity of life demands a man of pure life to say to her millions, follow me."

CARDINAL RICHARD has celebrated the sixteenth anniversary of the foundation of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre, which is in course of construction as in some sort an apology and expiation for the excesses of the Commune inaugurated in that district in 1871. The finishing strokes are being put to the transept, and it is expected that the building will be definitely handed over to divine worship three months hence—that is to say, in or about June. The cupola will then be undertaken, to be followed by the lofty bell-tower which will dominate Paris. Five years at least will have expired before this colossal enterprise of piety can be totally completed.

THE Spanish Government has fittingly inaugurated the quarto-centenary celebration of the discovery of America by ordering that the Franciscan monastery of Santa Maria la Rabida, where Columbus was received and encouraged when he most needed encouragement, should be restored and preserved as an historic monument. It was here that the great navigator met Padre Juan Perez, through whose influence at the court of Isabella an expedition was fitted out, and who deserves to share in the glory of the discovery of America. During the Revolution in Spain the old monastery was suffered to fall into ruin. The Government has at last undertaken the renovation of this historic landmark, and it is hoped it may revert to the Franciscans.

ON the occasion of the Feast of St. Valentine the catacombs of the cemetery of the holy martyr, situated at the foot of the Parioli Mountains, Italy, just beyond the Gate of the People, were illuminated and visited in pilgrimage by large numbers of the faithful. The Custodes Martyrum celebrated a solemn High Mass there, and it was followed by a Latin homily, after which

the young and already famous archaeologist, Signor Marucchi, gave a lecture in French upon the martyrdom of St. Valentine, the crypt discovered in 1878, the cemetery where it was found, and the basilica of the saint, of which the ruins are now being unearched. This basilica was one of the eighty abbeys of the Eternal City.

THE health of the Holy Father is still a perpetual object of preoccupation to the polynational penny-a-liners at Rome. His Holiness, if they are to be believed, has been prostrated by almost incessant swoons of late. He is going, going, and soon he will be gone, and so *ad nauseam* with this pestilent rubbish. The Pope, says the *Universe*, instead of being in this feeble condition, is stronger than he expected to be when he ascended the Chair of Peter, and, compared with other men of his age, is positively robust. In a recent interview with a diplomatist, Leo XIII. avowed that when he mounted the throne left vacant by Pio Nono he did not anticipate resting upon it more than four or five years, while he has already exceeded the average span of pontificates, which is seven or eight years. In fact, on the 20th February he entered on the fourteenth year of his reign. At the celebration of his crowning recently the Sistine Chapel was crowded with an august assemblage, embracing Cardinals, Ambassadors, and leading lights of the aristocracies of worth and blood of the civilized world. Solemn High Mass was sung by Cardinal Melethers. His Holiness wore the magnificent tiara presented to him by the diocese of Paris on the anniversary of the fiftieth year of his ordination, and was carried in state on the *Sedia Gestatoria*. Along the entire passage of the procession through the royal and ducal halls the enthusiasm and acclamations were cordial and sustained. It was a scene never to be obliterated from the memory of those who witnessed it.

THE London organs which maintain correspondents in the Eternal City must have something for their money, and accordingly tit-bits are served up regularly. Here is one from the *Daily News*:

"The Consistory which was to take place has been postponed, notwithstanding the desire of the Austrian Government to have it convoked. At the present moment there are only three Austrian Cardinals in the Sacred College, and therefore, should a successor to Leo XIII. have to be elected, Austria would have no interest in the conclave. On Wednesday night a sort of panic took place at the Austrian Embassy in Rome. A paper in Vienna had received most alarming news concerning the state of the Pope's health. The Emperor, who was immediately informed, telegraphed to Count Revertera asking for news. This telegram only arrived at one o'clock next morning, and although the Ambassador had that very evening seen several *Guardie Nobili* without hearing any particular news relating to the Pope's health, he was naturally greatly alarmed, and immediately drove off to the Vatican. Here he had great difficulty in gaining admittance, as all the gates were closed, and the Swiss sentry did not at first recognize Count Revertera. At last the servant of the Pope was called up, who reassured Count Revertera. When Leo XIII. was informed on the following morning of the incident he laughed heartily."

No wonder His Holiness was excited to merriment. That babble about Austrian uneasiness is—well, just babble and no more.