

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

Reddite quæ sunt Cesaris, Cesari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt. 22: 21.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Pope on Wednesday entrusted the Duke of Norfolk with an autograph letter to the Queen. The Duke started for England immediately to deliver the letter.

Mr. Arthur O'Connor, M.P., dined with Archbishop Lynch on Wednesday. Sir Thomas Grattan-Esmonde, M.P., was unable, by reason of a severe cold, to be present.

A good part of our space this week is taken up by matter relating to the Pontificate of Pope Leo, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of whose sacerdotal ordination begins to-day. Later on, perhaps on the completion of its volume, the REVIEW has in contemplation the issuing of a special Pope Leo number.

The *Gazette*, of Dublin, publishes an order signed by Commissioners Lytton and French, prescribing reductions of judicial rents throughout practically the whole of Ireland, ranging from 6 to 22 per cent., the average being 14 per cent. The aggregate reduction is estimated at £2,000,000. The reduction is permanent, and applies to arrears since 1881. A note is attached by Judge O'Hagan dissenting from the decision of his colleagues.

Mr. Michael Davitt, a few days ago, repeated his advice to the Irish farmers not to purchase land at the present time. By waiting they would be able to secure land, he said, on the basis of a nominal rental, 70 to 80 per cent. under the present figures.

Archbishop Croke applied some time ago to the Irish Prisons Board for permission to visit William O'Brien in Tullamore Prison, stating at the same time that he had obtained permission from Sir William Harcourt to visit Michael Davitt in Portland prison. Answer was returned that the Prisons Board was powerless to comply with the Archbishop's request; but on the strength of Sir William

Harcourt's previous action it would present it to the Government. In the meantime, the shameful treatment of Mr. Mandeville in Tullamore became public; and Archbishop Croke withdrew his application, declining to accept even a nominal favor from a Government capable of sanctioning such barbarities.

We have seen a copy of the address to Mgr. Persico, which is being circulated among English Catholics, and signed by Lord Ripon, Lord Ashburnham, Lord Orford, Sir Henry Bedingfield, Bart., and others. The address expresses gratitude to the Sovereign Pontiff for the solicitude displayed by him for their suffering brethren in Ireland, to whom, after centuries of persecution, they owe the liberties they enjoy in their own country at present. Conscientious of the constitutional nature of the present political struggle, bitterly conscious of the oppressive conduct of England towards Ireland in the past, and deploring that when the enmity and suspicion of the past are giving way to affection and confidence, certain lay members of the Church in England, of high position, for reasons incomprehensible, have adopted a course of hostility to Ireland, disparaging the conduct of the Irish clergy and bishops, publicly, and even privately, in representations to the Holy See they, therefore, repudiate their action as insulting to the ancient priesthood and hierarchy, and inimical to the interests of the ancient faith.

It would be a pity if the impossible stories circulated by English Tories to the effect that the bishops and priests in Ireland are to be quieted by the bribe of a great Catholic University, and that the Head of the Church, at the urgent solicitation of Lord Salisbury, is likely to consent to do duty as an English policeman in Ireland, really caused Mr. John Dillon, M.P., to lose his head for a moment. Mr. Dillon is reported to have stated a few days ago that the people of Ireland wanted no Pope in their politics, and that however much they respected his authority in spirituals, they would pay no more attention to him in temporals than to the Sultan of Turkey. Certainly, there seems no reason to doubt that the Tories have made every effort to influence Mgr. Persico, by fine promises in respect to higher Catholic education, the appointment of an Ambassador at the Vatican, and the renewal of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the English Government, that the Tories in a word, are playing the last cards in a desperate game. But Mr. Dillon, who possibly may not have said what is stated, must know that even if the Bishops of Ireland were not a unit in favour of Home Rule, even if in that they were not supported by Cardinal Manning and the most influential Catholic peers, laymen, and members of the episcopate in England, it would still be very doubtful if the Head of the Church would become the political enemy of his most faithful subjects. We do not find the Popes doing that. To be sure Tory correspondents and journals are forever telling us that "the Pope" is at last going to do so, but the "the Pope" whom these Tories know is a gentleman of romance and of rumour.