

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

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

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## NOTES.

From the *Weekly Register* of London Eng., we learn that the improvement in Cardinal Newman's condition has been steadily maintained. His days have been brighter and his nights better; and though the weakness cannot be expected to disappear, his condition generally is favourable and satisfactory. On Wednesday last week he received the Holy Father's blessing by telegraph, and the Pontiff has since privately expressed the pleasure with which he has received the better bulletins. Great numbers of letters and telegrams of inquiry and sympathy were received at the Oratory during the week; and among those by or for whom inquiries have been personally made are Mr. Gladstone and the Marquis of Ripon. Messages, the *Register* states, exchanged on Wednesday between the Ex-prime Minister and the venerable Cardinal were very gratifying to both.

Mr. Beatty-Kingston, of the *Daily Telegraph*, is the prince of interviewers; but the successes which are recorded in his volumes "Monarchs I Have Met," have been out matched, from the interviewer's point of view, by his conversation a few weeks ago with the Holy Father. He had the honour, he writes, of being received in special and private audience by the Sovereign Pontiff, who deigned to converse with him at considerable length and upon subjects alike of special and general interest. He writes that venturing to ask His Holiness if the German Emperor's recent visit had proved satisfactory, he replied: "I cannot say that I am either satisfied or dissatisfied with the Emperor's visit. . . . He came to see me; it was an act of courtesy, and I was glad to receive him. I had much to say to him; but just as I was beginning my discourse he interrupted me by calling in his brother, in order to present him to me. After that I had no further opportunity of speaking privately with him." With regard to the *modus vivendi* with Germany, the Sovereign Pontiff professed himself favourable in many respects. "From the German Government," he said, "I have obtained many valuable concessions. Bismarck is a reasonable man; he can be convinced, and I have found him willing to accede to just requests. His son, too, who had a long audience of me on the evening of the 17th, seems very sensible and earnest. With our Episcopacy and clergy in Germany all is going smoothly and satisfactorily. The vacant offices have been filled up with the accord of Church and State alike, and to the contentment of both. Of our Religious Orders which had been expelled from Germany, three have been authorized to return to their spheres of duty—the Franciscans, Dominicans, and Benedictines. We are in negotiation about the withdrawal of the prohibitions affecting our Educational Orders; but there is great difficulty."

The above, allowing for certain invincible differences between the Italian and English idioms, the correspondent states is the exact purport of the chief statements to which Leo XIII. deigned to give utterance in the course of his conversation with him. He adds that the Holy Father was fully aware of the capacity in which he approached his august person, and that no restriction whatever, express or inferential, was imposed upon him as to the publication of any word spoken by him on the occasion. For the paternal kindness with which Leo XIII. received and conversed with him he has no words wherewith to express his acknowledgment.

In manner as well as appearance, he states, the reigning Pontiff offers a striking, and in more than one respect advantageous, contrast to his immediate predecessor, Pius IX., of whom, during his long Pontificate, he twice had audience. He says: "The late Pope, when I knew him, was a vigorous old man of burly presence and jovial manner, liking to question rather than be questioned, and displaying a marked predilection for *le petit mot pour rire*—of his own saying, of course, for what layman would dare to make jokes or even say "good things" to a Pope? Leo XIII. is slightly built, fragile-looking, exceeding grave in manner, and dignified of bearing. His features are strongly marked but finely proportioned; his cheeks and lofty brow are almost colourless—"sicklied o'er by the pale cast of thought." When his face is in absolute repose its expression seems to betoken that he is reflecting profoundly, but mournfully. When lighted up by one of his peculiarly fascinating smiles, however, it beams with gentle benevolence and tender loving-kindness. Altogether, it is one of the most interesting, attractive, and memorable physiognomies I have ever yet contemplated. That Leo XIII. is one of the most amiable as well as intellectual of living potentates no one who has seen him smile and heard him speak can doubt. But consciousness of power and strength of will are no less manifest in the glance of his bright eye and the tone of his clear voice, than is geniality of temperament."

The *Telegraph* and the *Times* comment on the interview in leading articles. Not by the Catholic world only, the former thinks, but by innumerable people over whose consciences the venerable personage herein depicted holds no acknowledged sway, will share with those of a different Church the pleasure of contemplating Leo XIII. as he is seen in private audience, genially and unreservedly chatting.

The *Times* says that in the interview there is a great tokening. It says: "The turn of the Man of the Pen has come, and a representative of the Press has been received by the Pope with an intimacy of honour which could not have been exceeded in the case of King, Kaiser, or Ambassador."

The honour, it adds, shown to the English press by Pope Leo XIII. is of happy augury. "The power of the spiritual ruler of so many millions of men cannot be gainsaid, and anything which tends to a better understanding between the Church and the world must be of enormous advantage. As a great step towards the doing away of misunderstandings, and, in due time, the decay of bigotry and uncharitableness, and this not on one side only, we hail with complete satisfaction the compliment paid by the Pontiff to the Press, and the substitution of the Journalist for the Kaiser."