

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.

Not long ago the English Home Secretary, Mr. Henry Matthews, was regarded as a lucky man. That was when he became a member of the Cabinet and while he had still his Parliamentary reputation to make. But since then his course has been somewhat troubled, and as in the case of the Trafalgar Square riots of last year, so even the Whitechapel murders have become journalistic and political cudgels wherewith to beat the back of the unhappy Home Secretary. A great deal has been said about the refusal of the Home Office to offer a reward for the discovery of the murderers, and said as if only the indolence or indifference of Mr. Matthews stood in the way of success in the pursuit." It is perfectly well known, observes the *Weekly Register* of London, "that Sir William Harcourt abolished the reward system, finding that to pay for the detection of criminals created a supply of crime, and a still larger supply of manufactured evidence to bring home guilt to the innocent. In the opinion of Mr. Matthews, the judgment of his predecessor was sound on this point, and, in view of the amount of perjury to be bought at every street corner, we are glad that he has had the courage of his convictions."

The trouble between Mr. Matthews and the public, as we gather from the same journal, appears to be in this. that the public, or a portion of it, demands from a public man not only works but speeches. He must not only do his work; he must say he is doing it. Attitudes and platitudes are expected from him; "and these," says the *Register*, "are what Mr. Matthews—with the contempt for rhetoric which only a successful wielder of it at the Bar can entertain—has always foregone in responsible public life."

"The visit of the Lieutenant Governor (of Quebec) to Montreal," says "Laclede" in the *Gazette*, "will do 'a heap of good,' as they say down in the States. A superior man is always found out at once. Mr. Angers was well

received everywhere, and everywhere he met his reception in the spirit of a statesman and a patriot. One or two of his speeches will do a world of good, and have drawn attention from several of the leading Ontario papers. When such a man comes forward the Francophobes must scratch their ears and say 'they ain't all alike anyhow.'"

The Rev. Dr. Grant, principal of Queen's University, Kingston, who is on a tour through the Australian colonies for the benefit of his health, was interviewed in Melbourne for the purpose of getting his opinion upon the Canadian school system, which permits religious teaching in the schools, with separate schools for Catholics, while placing the management under locally elected boards, which levy local rates subsidised from the consolidated revenue. His opinion is that the Canadian system solves the religious difficulty, and it is at the same time far more economical than the Victorian system. He says the system of public instruction in Canada is complete, from the primary stage schools through the high schools to the University.

Old country papers are making merry over the appearance of Mr. Balfour at Manchester on a church congress platform as an apostle of Christianity. By invitation, the author of "The Philosophy of Doubt" read a paper on Practical Christianity, and as the *Nation* says "put his solemn imprimatur on the Sermon from the Mount." "When the subject which Mr. Balfour handled is considered," says the *Liverpool Catholic Times* "it must be admitted that there was a certain fitness in his appearance at the Congress. He attacked the doctrines of Positivism with vigour. Now, however great are the philosophic errors of the followers of Comte, humanitarianism is their most cherished practice, and what could be more appropriate than that the man who can joke about the death of a prisoner for which he is responsible should assail humanitarian principles?" The proposal to have Mr. Balfour speak at the Congress did not pass it appears without some little protest, and more than one minister urged that it were a disgrace to the Anglican Church to permit the Irish Chief Secretary to pose as one of its accredited teachers.

The views of a prominent French-Canadian on the question of annexation which will be found elsewhere in this number, may be taken as an indication of the drift of enlightened French-Canadian opinion, and the tendency of the aspiration of the people of Quebec Province. The *N.Y. Freeman's Journal* is but poorly informed on the subject when it endeavours to make out that Lower Canadian opinion is not opposed to annexation. A pronouncement of that sort must be built upon something better than a cock-and-bull story about Gen. Boulanger. The same journal asserts that Sir Hector Langevin and Mr. Chapleau see nothing in annexation to alarm them on account of their race. It had not read Mr. Chapleau's speech at Ottawa last Thursday evening. That at least was explicit.