

WE found our venerable father, Dr. Wilkes, with eye undimmed and bright as ever. His permanent lameness excepted, we see little change made by advancing years. We returned home with the happiest recollections of our visit (vaccination only excepted).

THE execution of Riel has been made the occasion of much bitter party utterances and foolish acts. That Riel was executed according to the laws of the land of which he was certainly a disturber is beyond question: that the pardoning power is a sacred trust in the hands of the Government, to be exercised only for weighty reasons, is a manifest principle of our Constitution: that the Government did not see fit to exercise the prerogative in this case is a fact, and there the matter ought to rest. No pressure ought to be even allowed from political parties on such a question. Private opinion there ever will be upon the wisdom of a pardon given or withheld, but it is a dastardly thing to seek political capital on such an issue. As we have already written, had not Riel's pardon been *demande*d, instead of being petitioned for, we should have said "mercy"; but it was foolishly made a *race* question, hence the Government was bound to consider its own dignity; it has doubtlessly done so, and we loyally acquiesce therein. There for us the matter rests, and the right of the Government to allow the law to take its course maintained. To take any other position is pure factiousness.

AKIN to this "race" question is another. The Pope has issued another Encyclical, in which, according to report, are the following words:—

We exhort all Catholics who would devote careful attention to public matters to take an active part in all municipal affairs and elections, and to further the principles of the Church in all public services, meetings and gatherings. All Catholics must make themselves felt as active elements in daily political life in the countries where they live. They must penetrate wherever possible in the administration of civil affairs; must constantly exert the utmost vigilance and energy to prevent the usages of liberty from going beyond the limits fixed by God's law. All Catholics should do all in their power to cause the constitutions of States and legislation to be modelled on the principles of the true church. All Catholic writers and journalists should never lose for an instant from view the above prescriptions. All Catholics should redouble their submission to authority, and unite their whole heart, soul, body and mind in the defence of the Church and Christian wisdom.

On which our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Congregationalist*, says:

This is plain speaking, certainly. In effect, it is a bold declaration of war against not only Republican institutions, such as our own, but against every other form of civil government on earth. The Roman Catholic citizens of every country are bidden—let it be noted distinctly—to "redouble their submission to authority," which the context shows to mean the authority of their Church, "to penetrate wherever possible in the administration of civil affairs," to "take an active part in all municipal affairs and elections," and to "do all in their power to cause the constitutions of States and legislation to be modelled on the principles of the true Church."

We believe the words, "a bold declaration of war," are not one whit too strong, and we regret to have the conviction forced upon us. We respect our Roman Catholic neighbours; we desire to ever live by them in cordial amity; their religious convictions we honour and esteem sacred; but if they are to be banded together for the control of our civil institutions, we must unite, however reluctantly, to preserve our liberties and our rights.

Our fathers did a noble thing in pressing Catholic emancipation. No man must be disfranchised for his religious belief, but we much fear that another principle will be forced to the front if the state of things indicated by the above extracts continues, and that is this: no man can enjoy a nation's franchise who is bound by either so-called religious or political ties to submit his conscience to the absolute dictation of a foreign ruler. It is preposterous that we in Canada should be ruled by the Vatican, a purely Italian Court; and if the issue is forced upon us, we must, as has been done before, maintain the alone supremacy of Christ and His liberty. No foreign priest, or native either, must be allowed to bring a free people humbly to sue at his feet.

WE are glad to notice in the columns of the *Nonconformist and Independent* a report of a meeting of the Colonial Missionary Society's Council of review on the 6th of October last. We feel for once that our friends have struck the right note regarding colonial work. The £600 or £700 sent to Canada was characterized as "a miserable pittance to be sent to such a vast country." Mr. F. Hastings, who called in upon us at our Union, did yeoman service advocating our just claims, and our old college friend, Dr. A. Duff, nobly stood up for