

# 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 OF THE WEEK.

Mgr. Persico, the Papal envoy to Ireland, spoke at a banquet given in his honour on Wednesday evening, by the clergy of Dublin. In the course of his speech he said that his experience in Ireland had shown him that the Irish clergy sided with the tenants and opposed the landlords.

The conversion of Mr. Buchanan, the member for West Edinburgh, to Mr. Gladstone's Home-Rule Liberal programme, and the defection within the week past of two or three other Unionist members, give strength to the conviction that the Tory Government is in serious difficulties. Though the Ministry may survive, the Cabinet, it is admitted, must be at once reconstructed, then new and rigorous measures are to be taken against the National League, and prosecutions for seditious speeches instituted against the Irish Nationalist leaders and members. It is to be a fight to the finish, in which either the National League or a Coercion Government must go under.

The shocking revelations in connection with the inquest of Constable Whelehan, who was murdered by moonlighters in the county of Clare, are as disgraceful and damning as could well come to light against an administration. By the confession of Callinan, the informer, it appears on oath that he was in receipt of money regularly from Whelehan, to get up moonlight raids and organize outrages. For years the infamous fellow has been in the pay of the Government, for the purpose of egging exasperated men on to commit outrage and felony, reporting to, and receiving his pay through the late Constable Whelehan. The raid in which Whelehan lost his life was deliberately planned by him, but the loathesome scoundrel was struck down in the midst of his own wickedness. All this has been ascertained in evidence, and the connection between Whelehan and the Castle authorities clearly established. The killing of Whelehan appears to have been accidental, but there was peculiar justice in the wretch's falling victim to his own villiany. The shocking fact in connection with the matter

is that these outrages elaborately planned by depraved men in the pay of the Government are resorted to, to afford a pretext for coercion.

The Congress of the Liberal Federation at Nottingham, on Wednesday, was attended by 2,000 delegates from Liberal Associations in all parts of the United Kingdom. A resolution condemning the coercion policy of the Government was carried by acclamation. The chairman in a speech declared that the Government's attempt on the liberties of the Irish people was not intended to end there, and that the Government would interfere with the liberties of Englishmen likewise.

Mr. Gladstone in his speech reviewed the situation in Ireland, and denounced the Government for the manner in which it was dealing with the Irish Question. Coercion was directed not against crime but against the people, and did the Irish movement show the slightest tendency to crime the Liberals would not give it the slightest countenance.

He had always told the Conservatives that the choice lay between coercion and Home Rule. The Conservatives had told them that Home Rule was an idle dream, but events had shown them that it was not. A Coercion bill had been passed against combinations, against the liberty of the press and the right of public meeting, and not against crime. The Irish spectacle was now a grave and serious one, and if it continued it would drive Ireland into such a state that the difficulties of the Government would become almost insurmountable.

If the Government persisted in their rash and foolish policy, it would naturally lead to political demoralization, and render it in the highest degree difficult, even for Englishmen and a Parliament truly representing their best and most enlightened conclusion, to deal rapidly and beneficially with Ireland. Only one word could describe the present system of Irish government. It was "impertinence." The events of the last few weeks in Ireland would not have been tolerated in England.

He admitted having used the words, "Remember Mitchellstown." That affair must and would be remembered. The country had an account to settle with the Government in connection with that affair. The Mitchellstown authorities were undoubtedly wrong, yet Mr. Balfour, on behalf of the Government, unequivocally assumed the responsibility of their acts. The whole system of government required to be thoroughly reformed, root and branch. There had been a breakdown in the Government in all essentials. A radical change was wanted, and such a change an enfranchised nation alone could accomplish. (Cheers.)

Speaking at the Congregational Institute in Nottingham the same evening, Mr. Gladstone said that the pains and anxieties of the present political controversy were greatly mitigated by the conviction that the work of the Liberal party, though momentarily one of strife, aimed at peace. He trusted it was not profane or irreverent to say that the Prince of Peace would recognize and bless their efforts, in seeking to unite kingdoms now estranged and promote harmony among different classes.