

# 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.

The politicians who are still ruling the fair realm of France have decided to open the exposition at Paris without any religious exercises. The correspondents at Paris speak of the omission as a great mistake, not alone in a religious, but in a practical and an æsthetic sense.

The *Mail* has sent a correspondent to report upon the French schools in Prescott and Russell. The correspondent, who appears to be a plain spoken man, sums up the charges against the schools in these counties in these words. "The French schools, like the schools in Quebec, are to a great extent mere *succursales* of the Church, where the child is prepared not for the duties of life, but for the observances of religion." Presumably the *Mail* has imbibed M. Paul Bert's views in regard to the necessity of stamping out Christian teaching in the community, not less than his fierce hatred of the Church and the Jesuits.

A few months ago a Protestant organization in this city entered upon a vigorous crusade for the proselytizing of the French Canadians in our midst. For this special purpose, it was extensively announced that the services of "a converted Trappist Monk," Pere Philippe De Sailliers, had been secured, and for a number of weeks the work of the proselytizers went on, we believe, in a church in the east end of the city. Of late, less had been heard in the newspapers about the success of the work of perversion. The reason of this will appear from the following letter which was received last week by the Very Rev. Vicar-General Rooney, Admr. :

ORA, May 27th, 1889. REVEREND SIR, You doubtless remember having read in the newspapers the name of Philippe de Sailliers, who preached against the Catholic religion, which is the only religion of God, of which the Pope is the visible head and successor of the holy apostles, whom God has appointed to govern His Church. It is against that Church, which is the Church Jesus Christ established on the earth, that I have spoken evil of by my sermons. I have

scandalized the Catholics. I avow that I have been deceived. I have taught error. I have asked pardon from God, pardon through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin. The priest has pardoned me in the name of God, whose representative he is. The little time that God has given me to live on this earth will be employed in doing penance and in weeping for the evil which I have done against the Church of Jesus Christ. My father, I ask your pardon, and also I ask pardon of all the faithful whom I have scandalized by my apostasy and my anti-Christian sermons. I beg you to be mindful of me in your prayers, and if you wish to read this letter to your parishioners to recommend me to their prayers. I am, with the most profound respect, yours, (Signed) PHILIPPE DE SAILLIERS. P.S.—My rev. father, you may give to my retraction the publicity you may judge useful. Pray for me that I may persevere in the life of penance which I propose to embrace. P. DE S.

The Catholic press of two continents is kept almost constantly employed either in contradicting or in correcting the fanciful, but mischievous, stories which are daily put into circulation by the Roman correspondents of the daily newspapers. The exploits of the correspondent of the London *Daily Chronicle* of a year ago, for example, in the business of sensation making, will not soon be forgotten. The hostility of the continental press to the Church is accounted for, in great part at least, by the fact that the great European papers, or the more influential of them at any rate, are owned and controlled, as is well known, either by Jews or freethinkers. And that being so it is not, perhaps, wonderful that these journals should prove themselves to be animated by no remarkable regard for the Vatican. Whether the English press is succumbing to similar influences may or may not be in question, but certain it is that the correspondents at the Vatican of some of the great London dailies appear to be imitating the tone of the press of the continental freethinkers. For example, we have the representative of the *Standard*, whose opinions are at once, of course, cabled across to this country, telling us that at the Vatican "the importance of laying England under an obligation is never lost sight of," that Cardinal Simeoni, the Prefect of the Propaganda, is endeavouring to induce the Irish Bishops "to act compactly under orders from headquarters;" and that when he has succeeded "the Vatican will be able to make certain clear and definite proposals to the British Government." The inference to be fairly drawn from all this is that the Pope, in all he does, "has an ulterior motive; that the question is one of arranging a *quid pro quo* pure and simple; that principles do not enter at all into his decisions, and if so are mere matters of barter. Just as the thief is said to believe all other men guilty of roguery, so do those who make war upon the Church believe it to be as corrupt and unscrupulous, and as ready to use the same weapons as themselves. The pity of the position is in this, that while their stories are in themselves too utterly foolish to notice, these men unfortunately have it in their power to prejudice the Catholic religion in the eyes of non Catholics, by scattering seeds of suspicion and of distrust amongst the mass of the non-Catholic population, whose minds on this subject, as an old country contemporary observes, "are a dark Cimmerian desert."