

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 Right Rev. Rev. Dr. Paul Durieu, O.S.I., in his first pastoral as Bishop of the newly made See of New Westminster, says: "Looking back to 1863, when Pius IX sent our illustrious predecessor (Bishop D'Herbomez, O.S.I.) to British Columbia, to sow the seed of the Divine Word, what do we see? This Province was then almost exclusively peopled by Indians, plunged in the darkness of paganism. But the mustard seed has now grown into a magnificent tree, under which have found shelter more than 15,000 Indians, who astonish the world by their progress in civilization, their excellent morals, and their Christian spirit."

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MANNING, writing through his secretary, says with respect to the proposed Labour Commission, that until it shall have been appointed and the names of the commissioners known, together with the extent and nature of the matters in reference, it is not in his power to form any opinion further than to say that such an inquiry ought to be productive of the greatest benefit, and that the mere issuing of such a commission is proof of the urgent necessity of treating the whole of this great question as vital to the welfare of the country.

NOTWITHSTANDING the undoubted benefits which Prince Bismark conferred upon Germany, it is still doubtful whether he will be able to secure the seat in the Reichstag for which he offered himself as a candidate. It was thought that scarcely a constituency would refuse to elect the man of iron, all that was needed being that he should present himself for the suffrages of the people. But in spite of his past record, he did not secure a majority of the electors of Geestmunde, the constituency for which he offered himself. He received, however, the largest vote given to any candidate, the result of the poll being: Bismark, 7,557; chmalfeld (socialist), 3,928; Plate (Guelf party), 3,342; Adolff (Freisinnige), 2,619. As it is necessary in Germany to secure a majority of the votes polled, there will be another ballot before the election will be decided. Great apathy was shown by the electors, only forty per cent. of the voters having voted at all. It is believed that the reason for this was that Bismark took no part in the contest. He did not even issue an address to the electors.

A DISPATCH dated Rome, April 23, says:—Early this morning a tremendous explosion shook this city to its foundations, spreading terror and dismay on all sides. The people rushed affrighted from their homes into the streets, houses rocked, pictures fell from the walls, thousands of panes of glass were broken, crockery was shattered, furniture was overturned, chimneys crashed down on the roofs and in some instances toppled over into the streets.

All the thoroughfares were strewn with bricks, stones, splinters and other debris, hurled there by the force of the powerful concussion which had caused Rome to totter on its foundations. People of all ages and conditions were rushing, pale with fear, about the streets. Rents and cracks appeared in the walls of houses, the plaster fell from the ceilings and general desolation prevailed. In many instances people were thrown from their beds by the shock.

The general opinion prevailed that Rome had been visited by an earthquake and that a second shock might reduce the city to ruins. Finally, when something like order had been restored, the real cause of the explosion became known. It was discovered that the immense powder magazine at Pozzeno Pantaleo, four kilometres from Rome, had exploded, and that it had caused enormous damage to the neighbouring fort.

The shock which caused Rome to tremble did not spare the

Vatican. That venerated place shook with the rest of the buildings when the force of the explosion was felt and several of the famous historical stained glass windows of the old buildings were shattered. The windows in the ancient Raphael chambers and the stained glass in the Royal staircase presented to Pope Pius IX. by the King of Bavaria were also seriously injured.

The full amount of the damage is not known at present and possibly may never be known, but all accounts agree that the loss is very severe, the interiors of many of the old palaces and churches having suffered to a greater or less extent. The exact number of killed and wounded is also unknown at present.

In the House of Commons April 17th Mr. Thomas Sexton, one of the members for Belfast, who was loudly cheered by the McCarthyites and by the Liberals, during the debate on the Irish Land bill, condemned Mr. Parnell's attitude of the previous night when the latter attacked the Liberal policy. Mr. Sexton said the Liberal position was not changed, but it was Mr. Parnell's attitude which had undergone a change. Mr. Parnell's proposed amendment to Mr. Morley's motion making it operative whenever a local government bill was passed would prevent Mr. Morley's object from being attained, which object was to compel the Conservatives to give Ireland local self-government. Mr. Morley's amendment was to the effect that an advance of money should not be granted under the bill except with the approval of county council, in the district in which the holding for which the advance was asked might be situated. After further discussion Mr. Morley's amendment was rejected by 247 to 170. Mr. Parnell's amendment to Mr. Morley's motion was also defeated.

Although Mr. Morley's amendment in introducing the Irish Land bill the principle of local control, was a point on which the Irish sections were expected to sink all differences, the spirit of faction got the upper hand. Mr. Parnell's amendment to the Morley amendment, followed by Mr. Sexton's amending the Parnell amendment, produced a feeling of irritation in the ranks of the Opposition, inducing many members to leave the House without voting on the most important attempt to alter the bill in committee. After this defeat the battle against the measure will be guerilla warfare. No leader of the Liberals will make any further effort to alter the character of the government's proposals. The bill has virtually passed the committee stage in the form which the Government projected.

At the evening's division the McCarthyites voted with Mr. Morley, while Messrs. Parnell, McKenna, Mahoney, Col. Nolan and other seceders joined the Conservatives.

An announcement of the most striking kind was Mr. Balfour's statement that the bill by which he was preparing to give Ireland local government would be circumscribed in character. His allusions to the operation of the land bill under local elected bodies clearly pointed to a scheme of county councils similar in structure to the English county councils. The announcement comes in time to be used in impending elections. There are now eight parliamentary seats vacant, of which seven will be contested. These contests will afford the two opposing parties some idea of the result of the coming appeal to the country. It is significant of the position of the home rule question as still holding the foremost place that the candidates for the vacancies find themselves constrained to dilate upon pledges for just settlement for Ireland. The platform of several Liberal candidates disclose planks prepared for the general electoral campaign, including besides home rule, those in favor of eight hours for miners, the one man and one vote principle, free education, church disestablishment, direct liquor votes and amendment of the law of conspiracy in favor of workmen. With this broad and strong programme the Conservatives will find it difficult to compete.