

# THE BYSTANDER.

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DECEMBER, 1889.

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IN describing the character and object of the Jesuits' Estates Act at Baltimore the other day, Mr. Mercier was bold and explicit. Amid loud cheers he spoke of it as "having repaired the despoilment of the Jesuits by the same George III. who had despoiled the American Revolutionary Fathers of their rights and liberties." It was intended as a reversal of the Conquest Settlement. It did deny the right of the crown and treated the exercise of that right as robbery. Where now are the soft subterfuges of the Minister of Justice? Are not those words of Mr. Mercier in themselves enough, if this is a British Colony, to warrant the protest against the Act?

At Quebec Mr. Mercier proclaimed that red and blue were to be blended in the Tricolor. From Quebec he telegraphed to the Pope the homage of the French Canadian nation. At Baltimore he changes his note and says that the tendency of his compatriots is not to nationality but to annexation. Plainly his opinions take their colour from his audience. Perhaps he also feels that he had hoisted the Tricolor a little too high. But if nationality is not the object, what is meant by the designation *Parti National*? The steadfast aim of Mr. Mercier's compatriots for the last quarter of a century has been to elbow the British and Protestant elements out of Quebec and make it a French and Papal community, which to all practical intents and purposes will be a separate nation. By some of the leaders this aim is openly avowed; those who