

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.

It is a curious, and a conspicuous, fact, and one which the speakers at Monday night's meeting, who boasted so unalterable attachment to the principles of "civil and religious liberty," "one law for all," "religious equality" and so on, from Mr. D'Alton McCarthy down, might not unprofitably have remembered, that in the days when the predecessors of these gentlemen—the former professors of the principles became powerful enough to give practical and beneficent effect to these, in themselves, somewhat estimable ideas, the result was that Catholics were speedily legislated and under the British Constitution—first out of any legal, and, as soon as possible, thereafter, out of any mortal existence. Those were the days of "civil and religious liberty," *par excellence*, as interpreted by the Orange Order.

It is clear from reading the wild dithyrambs addressed by these gentlemen to religious equality, that had they their way of it, they would make very short work of religious equality. We greatly fear that the Orange idea of equality spoke by the voice of that Irishman who, in answer to the stump orator's appeal, "Is not one man as good as another?" called out "Yes, and much better too." Like Mr. Thwackum, when they say religion, they mean the Christian religion, and not only the Christian religion but the Protestant religion, and perhaps not only the Protestant religion, but the Presbyterian religion. And in the same way as to equality. It is tolerably certain that, to such intelligences as were addressed at the (so called) Citizens Meeting on Monday night, equality is a synonym for Orange ascendancy.

We learn from the *Weekly Register*, of London, that His Eminence, Cardinal Manning, has sufficiently regained his strength to leave at last the shelter of his residence, and to break the monotony of a long confinement within four walls. Favoured by the finer weather he has taken several drives; and has visited the Athenæum Club—"perhaps the only institution of the kind," observes the *Register*, "which a Cardinal Archbishop would care to frequent." The late Henry Kingsley said, long ago, that the Athenæum was the one club to which wives ought to allow their husbands to belong.

"We are far," it says, "from holding the opinion of the novelist, nor, before the sensible wives of our generation, do clubs stand in any need of vindication. But there are clubs and clubs; and at the head of all clubs stands the Athenæum, where congregate the representatives of all that is most learned in science, most admired in art, and most enlightened in literature. There the head of the Catholic Church in England may forget for an hour in the afternoon the cares of his great office, taking up the new books and periodicals of the day, or talking with experts on the great social and educational problems of the hour."

Something has been done to solve one such social problem during the last few weeks, and more inspiring to His Eminence, says the *Register*, than the softest April breeze must be the news that tangible good is at last resulting from his long agitation on behalf of the most helpless members of the community—the children. Those who at all know the untiring activity of the Cardinal in behalf of every charitable movement, and in every direction of doing good, will not need to be reminded how he has pleaded in sermons, in speeches, and in eloquent pages in the magazines, for the protection of the London children. No one who read it will be ever likely to forget the portrayal of the sufferings, or the power of the plea made in behalf of the little ones contained in the article which His Eminence, in conjunction with a Dissenting minister, the Rev. Mr. Waugh, contributed to the *Contemporary Review*. It was entitled, if we remember rightly, "The Children of the London Savage." And the conditions of life which it revealed were a painful reminder of how much stranger, and sadder, after all, truth indeed is than fiction. The League founded by Mr. Waugh for the protection of young children from injury of all kinds, witnessed last week its first great success. The Commissioner of Police has directed that his men shall report any case of ill-usage at the office of the League so that steps may be taken to prosecute the offender. As was pointed out, however, in the article in the *Contemporary*, the great difficulty experienced by the promoters of the League in the past has been the difficulty of obtaining legislation extending and defining the nature of such offences. But before the national conscience can acquit itself, not merely the committer of outrages and violences on children must be subject to punishment, but the law, which has protected children from factory labour, must further interfere with the traffic in children, and with the exposure of them in the streets for the purpose of begging. But in the meanwhile such law as already exists for the protection of the young is likely to be put effectively into force. That this result is due in great part to the efforts of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster is well known; and "not all the greetings," says the *Register*, "of distinguished members of the Athenæum Club can welcome his reappearance out of doors in a way so pleasing to him as the absence from the London streets of some of the London sights which in the past pained his paternal heart."