

# 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.

The appointment of Mr. Chamberlain to a place on the Joint Fisheries Commission at so important an interval in English politics, taken together with the close silence he has maintained since the Government's first announcement of its intentions with respect to the National League, is a somewhat significant incident. It is impossible that Mr. Chamberlain's presence would be dispensed with in the present crisis were he still in complete accord with the Government leaders.

Archbishop Walsh, in a letter to the *Dublin Express*; says that, as the landlords at their recent meeting failed to adopt a manly attitude on the question of a conference between landlords and tenants, he fears that the opportunity to effect an amicable settlement is now lost. The landlords, it will be remembered, passed a resolution unanimously, denying that the rents prevailing in Ireland are excessive, or that reasonable abatements had been refused during periods of distress. On the other hand, the Land Commission which sat recently, established the fact, that in many cases the annual rental charged tenants was found to be in excess of the judicial valuation of their holdings. Baron Monck, one of the Lord Justices of Ireland, and a Land Commissioner, has advised the landlords of Ireland to follow the Archbishop of Dublin's advice, and hold a joint conference with the tenants, in order to arrive at some better relations on the vexed question of rent.

The letter recently written by the Grand Master of the Orange Order to Mr. Gladstone, asking him to state whether, in his future Home Rule proposals, the representatives of Ireland, as an integral part of the United Kingdom, would be retained in the Imperial Parliament, and the reply thereto of Mr. Gladstone, that the subject of the exclusion of the Irish Members from Westminster, is not involved in the question of Home Rule, are not without political significance and promise. It will be remembered of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule bill of last year that one feature which contributed perhaps more than any other to defeat the measure was that which provided for the exclu-

sion of the Irish members from Westminster, notwithstanding all assurances that the point was one not meant to be insisted on, and that the question of their retention or exclusion was one entirely of detail, not affecting or essential to the principle of Home Rule. Undoubtedly the thorough understanding of the intentions of the Liberal leaders on this subject will overcome the only objection entertained by many Liberal Unionists against the former Home Rule measure.

The Government have determined upon, it appears evident, the general proclamation of the National League. The *Dublin Gazette* of Monday published a proclamation suppressing the organization in six specified counties, and its general proclamation, it is anticipated, will speedily follow. Under the provisions of the Crimes Act, such proclamation makes it criminal to convoke, hold, or publish meetings, or do anything in connection with the organization. The *Daily News* says of the proclamation that it marks the final suppression of the political influence of the Liberal Unionists, who will henceforth be the tools, not the masters, of the Government. The *Standard* (Conservative) congratulates itself that the law is at last a reality, “although,” it adds, “we do not disguise from ourselves the fact that the struggle will be a sharp one.” The struggle may be a very grave one; it is certain to be productive of great bitterness and suffering, but it can never be successful. Government in Ireland does not succeed by coercion, and what was impossible under the *regime* of the late Mr. Forster and under the very different conditions then existing, is not likely to prove a conspicuous success under Mr. Balfour. It is stated in some despatches that the League will defy the proclamation, but the Nationalist leaders have not yet made known what measures are meant to be taken.

The inquest in connection with the deaths of victims of the Mitchellstown riot, is still proceeding. The conduct of the officers in charge of the constabulary is properly the subject of a most searching inquiry, and will be probed to the bottom. Mr. Labouchere, M.P., who was an eye witness to the riots, has written a letter to Mr. Harrington, enclosing £20 for the families of the victims, and containing the following strong statements: “The law knows nothing of a government report, nor of any distinction between policemen and other citizens when the former exceed their statutory duties. If a policeman tried to force his way through an orderly and legal meeting, he is a disturber of the public peace. He may, and ought to be, resisted. If he strikes a blow, that blow ought to be returned, in order to prevent him from striking another. If he seeks to take the life of anyone, the person who is in danger may defend himself by taking the life of the policeman. The sooner the Irish police are taught in a particular fashion the law, the better it will be for our liberties.” Mr. Gladstone similarly has written a letter to a *Glasgow Liberal*, deploring the grave acts of the Irish police, and, what is still graver, the approval of those acts by the government. “I trust,” he says, “the country will not be slow to condemn that indecent approval given without awaiting the result of the enquiry, and thereby discourage a repetition of proceedings it was eminently calculated to promote.”