

THE CATHOLIC SHIELD.

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE AND GENERAL REVIEW.

"Scuto circumdabit te veritas ejus."

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

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"CATHOLIC SHIELD,"

OTTAWA, ONT.

TO OUR READERS.

At this season publishers of newspapers and periodicals expect prompt remittances from their patrons.

The attention of Catholic teachers is directed to "Educational Notes" in this number.

Our next issue will contain an interesting paper on the Separate School Question before the Parliament of Canada, promised for this month but unavoidably held over.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Mr. Gladstone has not yet exhausted his "resources of civilization" on Ireland; he may have something in reserve—one of those persuasive agents used with such effect in India—blowing from the cannon's mouth for instance—wherewith to demolish the Land League. So far, himself must admit, his policy has been a miserable failure. Parnell in Kilmainham has proved stronger than Parnell in Parliament, and more aggressive than at Wexford. The "No Rent" Manifesto is law to thousands of tenants, who have preferred to lodge their money in the Saving's Bank rather than pay it to the landlords, and are philosophically waiting for something to turn up. The *London Times* (Nov. 23) says: "We are unwilling to relinquish hope of improvement in Ireland, but cannot close our eyes to the fact that the most recent evidence points in the opposite direction. It is only too plain that after a brief interval of hesitation a considerable section of the people have decided to adhere to the policy of the 'No Rent' Manifesto." This is an important admission. The *Statist* opines that the Government will be driven to still harsher measures, until Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright will find themselves called upon to defend acts which even Castlereagh would be troubled to justify in Parliament. We shall see.

It is a pity the manipulators of the cable will not represent things as they really are at the other end. They would have us believe that the Land Court works like a charm; but the latest English and Irish papers report otherwise. Thus the *Morning Post* says:

"There are months and months of work already on the hands of the Commissioners, although not one-fiftieth part of the 600,000 tenant-farmers have yet sent in their cases. It is announced from Dublin that it is feared that the Land Commissioners will not be able to cope with the enormous amount of work which is amassing for them. The Government is in serious embarrassment. What will become of the tranquility of the country if the Land Court breaks down? How are rents to be fixed if it must take several years to go through the hundreds of thousands of claims for the fixing of a judicial rent that are expected? The difficulty of the Government is great."