

The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite qua sunt Caesaris, Caesaris; et qua sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

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Notes.

We believe that the people of Ireland are passing through the most trying political hour ever experienced—and it is saying a great deal—since the beginning in that country, of constitutional effort. The prison cruelties inflicted upon so delicate a man as Mr. O'Brien, have shocked the world. It would seem as if the Government of Ireland were bent on demonstrating to the Irish people that they have nothing to hope for from constitutional methods of working. One overt act on the part of men driven to desperation, would be the chief secretary's opportunity for dragooning the country. The period is most critical, and must call for the highest exercise of the controlling and moderating influences of the clergy and the national leaders. It is clear from the experiences of the past week that in Ballfour the Irish people are dealing with a man who has stifled every human feeling. It is a strange jest to find at this day such a man administering the Government of Ireland. A half an hour of his methods would have cost him his head in the days of the Commonwealth.

In the gallery of the House of Commons a few days ago Mr. J. K. Foran, the Parliamentary correspondent of the *Montreal Star*, handed the writer the following neat skeleton description of a Montreal Carnival sent by him to the *London World*. A few hours later and Mr. Foran had developed his description into the stately verse which we publish elsewhere in this number:—

“Read Brechiani's picture of a carnival in the ‘Jew of Verona,’ or Dicken's scenes on the Roman Corse during that season,—extract therefrom masks, dommos, slinging of bon-bons, scattering of flowers, flirtations (?) clatter, din, folly, and a palace aflame with innumerable lights, add thereto snow shoes, toboggans, moccasins, skates, red-belts

blanket-coats, blue tuques, slides, rinks and buildings of ice,—strike a balance and you will have a faint idea of the gigantic institution, with its hurry, bustle, madness, extravagances and blizzard-like wildness, known as a Canadian Carnival. The Roman Carnival like its own rockets, begins in a flare of light, flashes in the sky, and comes down, like a broken stick, amidst the penitential darkness of lent,—the Canadian Carnival, like its own ice-palace, displays the Kaledioscope splendours of its prismatic beauties, for a space, dazzles the eye and overwhelms the senses, then fades gradually away before the enraptured vision and melts into vapor.”

The *Ottawa Citizen* publishes in a late number a letter from the Hon. John Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue, in reply to the attacks which have been made upon him by certain Opposition newspapers in respect to his purchase of lands in the County of Ottawa. Mr. Costigan, in his letter, deals with the charges in an exhaustive manner. For many weeks, the Minister writes, he has borne silently the attacks of these various newspapers, and while he could have rested satisfied with the verdict of those who know him, and could have felt safe in the regard and confidence of his friends, as a Minister of the Crown he deemed it not only prudent but a duty he owed to the whole country “to direct such an investigation into the matter as would enable him to place expert testimony, instead of mere casual denial, before those who desired to know the truth.” The charges against Mr. Costigan were that, aided by the Minister of Militia, he wilfully dispossessed a poor settler of his estate; that it was with the connivance of the Minister of Crown Lands for Quebec; that this settler's application was pigeon-holed at his dictation; that the Crown Lands agent at Thurso had reported in favour of the settler; and that an eviction took place and the settler's family was dispossessed of 24 years struggle with the forest primeval. Mr. Costigan's letter, which takes up over three columns of the *Citizen*, lays before the public the facts as they have been ascertained after some weeks of investigation, and is accompanied by the report of an expert surveyor, together with a plan of the lands, and the correspondence which bears on the question. These expose the utter foundationless of the pretty tissue of stories. We do not think the Minister of Inland Revenue, who is a man of integrity, need regret the circumstances which have led to his letter, because we think it must be impossible for anyone to resist the conclusion after having read it that Mr. Costigan has been slandered, to serve, we suppose, some unworthy partisan purpose.

The Holy Father has given ten thousand dollars to the poor of Rome and ten thousand more to the Italian seminaries. In his recent Encyclical he exhorts Catholics to resist by example the luxurious usages of our time.