

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

*Reddito quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.*—Matt 22: 21.

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## LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

...Sr. PETERSBURG, Oct. 22.—The famine has extended to Siberia. The governor has completed a report showing that in the districts of Kokthohotowsk and Petropaulovski, what food supplies the inhabitants possessed have been entirely exhausted, and appeals to public charity. Owing to the difficulty of transportation in winter efforts at relief seem almost hopeless. Supplies from Caucasia are improving in quantity, and it is hoped they will avail to stave off the worst effects of the famine. Advices from the interior of the Empire are continually of worse import. The people are commencing to riot in Samara and Voronez.

Reports from the Provinces of Sunbirsk and Samar show that the local Government is unable to cope with the prevailing distress, and that relief has not reached the more remote districts. The work of distribution is not properly organized. Numbers of prosperous persons are receiving help, while many who are entirely destitute are dying of hunger. The authorities have forbidden the local press to record the state of affairs. The Provincial Assemblies are panic-stricken and are utterly unable to remedy the disorder. The supposed reserves of grain are missing. It has been discovered that when the Czar ordered the distribution of the reserve grain in the Government granaries the officials did not dare to acknowledge that the stores were empty, and tried to make up the deficiency from the military granaries in order to conceal the peculation. It is feared that this will greatly hamper the military commissariat in the event of Russia engaging in a war. Funds for the relief of the starving people have also been deplorably mismanaged. In some districts, which are under powerful patronage, there is more than an abundance of relief, while in other districts no heed is paid to the starving peasants. Many Government employes complain that their superiors deduct a certain amount from their wages for the relief fund, thereby leaving them poverty-stricken.

LONDON, Oct. 22.—Last evening the fierce gales which have been sweeping over England, Ireland and the south of Scotland for nearly two weeks renewed their work of destruction. The Thames to-day rose four inches at Windsor, flooding the meadows, a portion of the racecourse and the play fields of Eton College. Miles of Home Park and Egham Meadow were submerged by the overflow, which now threatens serious damage. The mail boat which arrived at Kingstown to-day from Holyhead reports having encountered a terrific thunderstorm. When 15 miles from Holyhead the passengers saw a complete waterspout two miles distant from the steamer. The waterspout lasted a quarter of an hour, when it was dispersed by a squall.

From Bath comes the report of the drowning of two boys in the flood. The situation in low-lying parts of the country is becoming serious. In Lincolnshire and Wiltshire many factories have been compelled to stop operations, their ground floor being inundated.

Vast tracts of land in Spain, to the south of the Sierras, have been submerged by the floods which have followed the recent rain-storms. The Cadiar river and its tributaries have overflowed the plains of Albulol and Berschulez, and the crops in those districts have been destroyed, and a number of persons have been drowned. Terrible distress exists among the inhabitants. The country around Mauresa, Province of Barcelona, has been swept by a hurricane, which has done much damage to crops and other property.

King William of Wurtemberg to-day opened the Parliament of his Kingdom in Stuttgart. The new King expressed warm satisfaction at the reunification of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg with Germany under the late King Charles. King William also announced that bills would be introduced providing for the revision

of the constitution, the promotion of economic legislation and for reform in taxation.

## O'BRIEN AND PARNELL.

LONDON, October 16.—Mr. William O'Brien to-day made public his statement. He writes as follows: "I have waited since the funeral, hoping that the late Mr. Parnell's leading supporters, knowing my relations with Mr. Parnell at Boulogne, would have the manliness to disassociate themselves from the diabolical charges circulated broadcast by their especial organ that Mr. Dillon and myself hounded their leader to death. Now are the councils of peace madly and finally cast to the winds, now have the foulest insinuations as to our treatment of Mr. Parnell become part of the machinery of the dissension mongers without a word of repudiation or rebuke from the men who know the charges to be the foulest, most ungrateful and iniquitous ever levelled at an Irish Nationalist. My countrymen will agree with me that I am absolved from all obligations of silence in regard to the conference at Boulogne.

"The unalterable basis of all communication with Mr. Parnell at Boulogne was first and last his retirement from the leadership. I broke off communication with him after the first interview until I was informed by his chief lieutenant that he would entertain the proposal. I invite Mr. Parnell's representatives to make public every document concerning the Boulogne negotiations. We kept three objects always in view, first, that it was impossible that Mr. Parnell could continue as chairman of the parliamentary committee, second, to soften the memory of Mr. Parnell's fault by every possible palliative method and evidence of good will that his devoted colleagues could suggest; third, to avert the calamities which we keenly felt to be inseparable from any disruption of the forces.

"We were fully persuaded that these objects had been covered. Had the terms we suggested been loyally accepted the party would have been re-united under the leadership of Mr. McCarthy, leaving Mr. Parnell an honorable place in Irish public life. Mr. Parnell's four most trusted lieutenants professed themselves to be as eager as ourselves to secure Mr. Parnell's withdrawal either on these terms or by reunion under the leadership of Mr. Dillon. These same men are now silent, whilst their organ charges us with plotting to get rid of Mr. Parnell.

"They themselves pressed me to consent to Mr. Parnell's first proposition, which was that he should retire in favor of myself, and at the close of the negotiations they repeated their conviction that it would have solved the difficulty had I consented.

Mr. Parnell's own feelings as to my treatment of him are explained in the following letter written to me on the day we broke off negotiations:—

MY DEAR O'BRIEN,—I desire to express to you how deeply I feel the kindness and gentleness of the spirit shown to me by you throughout the negotiations. I have felt all along that I had no right to expect from anybody the constant anxiety to meet my views; the intense desire that all proposals claiming your sanction should be as palatable as possible to me, which so distinguished your conduct in the communications which passed between us. I know that you have forgiven much roughness and asperity on my part, and that you have made allowance for some unreasonable conduct from me, which to anybody gifted with less patience and conciliation than yourself would have been most difficult. I appreciate intensely the difficulties which surrounded you during the negotiations; the constant daily anxiety which would have been overwhelming to anybody possessed of less courage and devotion than yourself. I fervently hope and believe that the prospects of Ireland are not so dark as you fear, and that after a little time, having passed through clouds and darkness, we shall again stand on our former footing, when in happier days we were comrades in arms in behalf of a united Ireland.

Dearest O'Brien, I am always yours,

CHARLES S. PARNELL.

Mr. O'Brien concludes by saying: "Thus closed the Boulogne communications with full recognition that we parted as honorable opponents."