

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

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

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## Notes.

The priests of the archdiocese of Toronto, have been in retreat during the week at St. Michael's College. The retreat was conducted by the Rev. Father Henning, C.S.S.R., of "St. Patrick's," in this city.

A few days ago THE REVIEW received a communication from the publishers of the *Contemporary Review*, which read as follows:

"There is a very important article on the Future of the Papacy in the *Contemporary Review* for August. It recalls the sensational article on the Bismarck Dynasty and is anonymous. It says that to re-establish the temporal power of the Church it must be Anglicised or Americanized or dwindle. This is illustrated by the startling statement that the Papal rescript against the plan of campaign was launched by the Pope under the pressure of the English Government against the advice of Mgr. Persico, who has hitherto been held responsible for that blunder. The article is sure to attract immense attention. It points, without naming him, to Cardinal Gibbons as the next Pope, and the transfer of the seat of the Holy See from Rome to London. The article is long and has the place of honour. It is written with earnestness and conviction and the author evidently has an intimate acquaintance with the secrets of the Vatican. The thesis of the writer is that the Papacy will, if a divine instrument, be purified by persecution, and driven from Rome never to return. As Europe, when the Roman Empire fell, became barbarian and was civilized by the Church, so will it be with the world, which is now becoming English-speaking. The question for the Pope is whether he can Catholicise the English-speakers. The future of Catholicism depends upon the Pope thinking in English and ridding the Church of Roman traditions and ambition."

We give the publishers of the *Contemporary* free advertisement of this prodigious article, which, we take it, is all

they are after. And with all due respect to them, we do not think it will cause any unwonted excitement. The Catholic public is thoroughly accustomed to seeing the affairs of the Church made the subject of every sort of journalistic hoax and rumour; and quite impervious, by this time, to the fresh assaults of sensational journalism. The authorship of the article is not hid in mystery. The editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* is nothing if not a manufacturer of sensations. Two or three weeks ago, by way of preparation for these startling "revelations" about Mgr. Persico, it will be remembered we had the duly heralded announcement of an Irish plot to kill the Monsignor, who was represented as afraid for his life to return to Ireland. It was the first act in Mr. Stead's little comedy, which has been withdrawn from the stage amid public apathy. Mgr. Persico, we may say, has authorized the statement that he never heard of such a plot, and never felt or expressed such a fear.

Mr. Stead's article is styled "The Papacy—a Revelation and a Prophecy." His revelation is that the Pope issued the Irish Rescript without having read Mgr. Persico's reports; and his prophecy is that the Papacy, if it is to be an institution of the future, and survive until the coming of Macaulay's New Zealander, must become Anglicised or Americanized. It counts for nothing with the writer that the Pope is Bishop of Rome. Mr. Stead's idea is that Cardinal Gibbons will be the next Pope, and that the Holy See will be situated somewhere in England or America. How very probable! How likely, ere long, to see Catholic Europe looking for its supernatural light to London, New York, or Chicago!

With respect to the "revelation" the writer in the *Contemporary* makes his statements, he tells us, "with a full sense of the grave responsibility attaching to their publication;"—and proves it by publishing them anonymously. It is strange that a man so intimately informed of what goes on at the Vatican should have evidently missed an important statement made by Mgr. Persico, and that is that the reports were made to the Pope himself, and that the Rescript followed their presentation. The statements in regard to Mgr. Persico and the Holy Father are simply devoid of foundation. As against them the *Weekly Register* of London states on its own knowledge, obtained from the first authorities, that every one of the Monsignor's letters were carefully conned at the Vatican; and not a sentence in them that was not studied line by line. The editor of the *Pall Mall* might have known that the Pope himself has publicly alluded to Mgr. Persico's representations as the basis on which the Holy See took action.