

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.

THE Holy Father has granted to all Ordinaries the faculty to release the Faithful from the obligation of fasting and abstinence in all places where the present epidemic prevails, so long as the public health shall require. The publication of this Indult is however, we take it, discretionary with the Ordinaries; the suspension of the rules enjoining fasting and abstinence being conceded if the state of the public health shall seem to them to demand this relaxation. Up to our present writing we have not been advised of its publication in any diocese within this Province.

MR. GLADSTONE'S motion in the Imperial Parliament, respecting the Report of the *Times'* Forgeries Commission, "That the House reprobates the charges based upon calumny that have been made against members of the House, and while expressing satisfaction of the exposure made of evil doers regrets the wrong inflicted and the suffering and loss endured through those acts of flagrant iniquity," was an attempt to make something like reparation for an enormous wrong. It was supported by a powerful speech, and a searching but dispassionate criticism of the finding of the commissioners. Their report, while written in honour and good faith, he held to be insufficient, in that it failed to represent the sense of opinion which the House and the country had already formed in regard to the subject of the inquiry.

"THOSE who wish us to believe that the Papacy in the nineteenth century has changed its nature and that we need feel no fear of its encroachment on the civil power, should get the Pope to hold his tongue." This is how Professor Goldwin Smith pays his respects to the Papacy in the March number of *Bystander*. It is one of a number of pleasantries.

"The late Pope," we read, "was a Papal guardsman turned into a supplement to the Deity, and he behaved as such a person might be expected to behave." Mr. Smith was never to be complimented for observing any literary good manners, but some of his later work in *Bystander* begins to border upon buffoonery.

MR. SMITH takes exception to the words of the latest Papal Encyclical. "If the laws of the State," the Encyclical reads, "are in open contradiction to the Divine Law, if they command anything prejudicial to the Church or hostile to the duties imposed by religion, then indeed it is a duty to resist them and a crime to obey them, a crime fraught with injury to the State itself, for every offence against religion recoils on the State. To love the two fatherlands, the earthly and the heavenly, but in such a manner that the love of the heavenly prevails over that of the other, and that human laws are not preferred to the law of God, such is the essential duty of Christians, from which spring, as from their source, all other duties." Hildebrand and Innocent III., says Professor Smith, could want nothing more; and to tolerate these pretensions is to betray, he adds, one of the great organic principles of modern civilization. And yet the words of the Sovereign Pontiff are nothing more than an affirmation that the Christian principle must, in a Christian society, obtain in the public life of the nation, as in the life of the family and of the individual. Deny this—banish the Christian idea—and the result is atheism in the State, and once atheism—anarchy.

SIR CHARLES DILKE in his recently published work, having reviewed the position of the old world powers, thus speaks of Canada: "Canada, like Switzerland, seems to have reached the ideal of a federal power as traced by de Tocqueville when he said that what was needed was that the central power should be given immense prerogatives, and should be energetic in its action towards the provinces whilst the provinces themselves were to have perfect local freedom, the sphere of the central power being strictly defined by the constitution. Canada possesses the combination of central dignity and strength of government, with local liberty and variety in the provinces, and when the completion of the federation of Australia by the entrance into it of the mother colony, if not of New Zealand, presents us with a similar picture at the other extremity of the Pacific, three English speaking Federal Powers will dominate that greatest ocean of the world. Canadian federation is declared by Sir Henry Parkes to be the model on which the future institution of the British States of Australia are to be built up."