

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

*Reddite quæ sunt Cesaris, Cesaris; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.*—Matt 22: 21.

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## Notes.

During a hitch in the negotiations of the mediators between the striking London Dock labourers and the Directors of the Dock Companies, it was Cardinal Manning who stood out alone as mediator between masters and men when the Lord Mayor and the Anglican Bishop of London were deterred by the difficulties and discouragements which met them. Declining the offer of an enthusiastic parade past the Archbishop's House, he went down to the East End, and in a Catholic school-room, where he met the leaders of the strike, "he taught the entire publicist class," says a contemporary, "a larger lesson than any learned before within those walls." The Cardinal pleaded with the men to accept a compromise and to go to work at once. He pleaded, and he prevailed. Had he not done so, he would, it is said, have appealed from the leaders to the mass of the men, and would have addressed them in their multitudes on Tower Hill—"a sight as moving as any seen there," says a London paper, "since Fisher and More were made into martyrs."

Some twenty-five thousand of the strikers were the Cardinal's own spiritual children. It was his strong sympathy for them, and a sense of his duty to the country that prompted and strengthened him in his peace-making labours.

Mr. Balfour has written a letter to the Secretary of the Protestant Alliance, relative to the establishment of the projected Catholic University for Ireland. "Though I desire," writes Mr. Balfour, "to take steps to promote higher University education for Catholics, a foundation endowment for the proposed university has never been in contemplation by the Government. Such an endowment is not in my opinion necessary. Before passing judgment upon the supposed plans of the Government, the public ought to suspend an expression of opinion until the views of the Government are known." Mr. Balfour is careful to conceal, and it still remains impossible to form any idea as to the probable provisions of, the measure which the Government proposes to introduce.

So far as it is possible to judge from the opinions of the leading newspapers, the proposal is one which is likely to meet with little acceptance among English politicians: whether it will meet with more favour from the people of Ireland must depend upon the character and scope of the measure. "Should it prove to be the fact," says the *Irish Catholic* of Dublin, "that Mr. Balfour and his colleagues are really pledged to take into immediate consideration the question as to the best means of supplying the University requirements of Irish Catholics, there can be no doubt that a notable point has been reached in a long struggle, the credit of the maintenance of which it is not too much to say, is mainly, if not entirely, due to the hierarchy of this country." The objection most strenuously urged, that the fulfillment of the Government's proposal would prove dangerous to the unity which at present exists between the National party and the English Radicals, it does not entertain seriously. It is true, it adds, that many, probably the great majority, of the English Radical Members will vote against any scheme of the kind; and will do so not for the purpose of perpetuating the educational disabilities under which the Catholics of Ireland labour, but in maintenance of a principle which they desire to apply quite as strictly in their own country. The Irish Members on the other hand, will support, it is believed, the Government measure, or such portions of it as they deem beneficial, and their doing so will involve nothing in the nature of a serious separation of general political interests. It is well understood that the Irish representatives will accept any measure which is in the Irish interests no matter from whose hands it comes; and the opposition which Mr. Davitt has aimed at the proposal seems to be regarded somewhat generally as very wide of the target.

Even with the Irish party Mr. Balfour may not find it altogether plain sailing. It is certain that no scheme devised by the Government will be acceptable to the Irish representatives which does not provide that the University shall be not only Catholic in its institution, curriculum, and government, but also "racy of the soil;" that is, Irish and national. It is recognized that Mr. Balfour could produce a scheme which might establish a University perfectly orthodox from the religious standpoint, and in all other respects out of touch with the people of Ireland. And they want nothing of the kind. "Any University established," says the *Irish Catholic*, "must not be one which will turn out Catholic Mahaffys, men condemning their native land, but honest, devout, cultured, manly young Irishmen, loving their own country, and prepared to do every whit as much in her service and her cause as Teuton, Frank, or Briton will do in that of theirs." Any other kind of University would be opposed in every possible manner. If Mr. Balfour attempts, in an honest spirit, to carry out his promises, the Irish people will profit by the fact. If he fail, a great principle, at any rate, will have been admitted.