

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.

A brother of Mr. Matthew Arnold who died a few days ago is a convert to the Catholic Church, a Fellow of the Royal and an erst professor of the Catholic University of Ireland.

The following protest, signed by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the several Bishops of England, has been issued relating to the Affirmation Bill which passed the English Parliament a few weeks ago:

The undersigned Catholic Bishops have heard with great anxiety of a Bill, now passing the House of Commons, whereby it is to be made optional for members elected to Parliament either to take the oath or to make an affirmation, which does not as heretofore imply belief in God as Lawgiver and Judge, but is accommodated to those who deny these truths of natural religion.

They, therefore, are constrained by their office to record their judgment and belief, that no man is a fit and proper person to make laws for the homes and domestic life, or for the social and public welfare of England, Scotland and Wales, who does not believe at least in natural religion. They have no sympathy with the multiplication of needless oaths, but the office of legislator is the highest responsibility in the Civil State, and has been wisely guarded by the solemnity of an oath. The purity of Parliament depends upon the probity and knowledge of its members. And these qualities are tested as far as man can test them by the oath, and any interference with this test the Bishops cannot pass without protesting in the strongest manner against such interference.

If, therefore, the Bishops were to look on in silence and without protest, they would feel themselves involved in this grave responsibility, and by this public declaration they desire to free themselves from such, and to record their views on this important subject.

Mr. Goldwin Smith does not appear to have been any happier in his remarks at the Canadian Club meeting in

New York, judging from the comments of American papers, than in his speech at the St. George's Society dinner in the same city, which brought down upon him the strong dissent of Mr. Chauncey Depew.

Referring to the recent movement among British-Americans in the United States to become citizens, he said:

"Naturalization is the best tribute which the emigrant can pay to the native country to which his heart still turns. He can render her no service by a sullen inactivity. He can render her service only by the legitimate use of his influence as a citizen in the councils of his adopted country."

Therefore, says one New York paper, the British-Americans are to seek the privileges of citizens of the United States in order to render service to England. This is a prostitution of the rights conferred upon them by naturalization. Naturalized subjects swear to be faithful to republican institutions, and if they are to utilize those institutions to promote the interests of a foreign power, they are guilty of perjury.

The Boston *Pilot's* Roman correspondent says that a rumor has been prevailing in Rome for some days of a most disquieting nature, at least so far as English people are concerned. It was first hesitatingly stated, and now it is boldly declared that the gift made to Leo XIII by Queen Victoria, which everybody believed was solid gold, is really nothing else than cheap silver gilt. It is said also that the Duke of Norfolk, as the bringer of the Queen of England's gift to the Pontiff, was latterly in a nervous state lest the truth should be discovered before he could get out of Rome.

Archbishop Walsh, says a report from Rome on the 2nd, is having frequent conversations with Cardinal Simoni. His Grace, while declaring his readiness to submit to the Pope's recent rescript, is represented as saying that he could not act in opposition to his conscience, and would rather, without making any difficulty, resign his position in Dublin, in which case, the report adds, he would be created a Cardinal. Cable reports of this character are, however, to be received with caution. His Grace is not understood to have approved of the Plan of Campaign.

In order that the Church Suffering may participate in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Christ's Vicar—as well as the Church Militant by pilgrimages and offerings, the Church Triumphant by beatifications and canonizations—an Encyclical Letter has been addressed to the patriarchs, primates, archbishops, and bishops of the whole world, in which the Sovereign Pontiff prescribes for the last Sunday of September a special Mass of expiation in behalf of the souls in purgatory, to be celebrated "with the greatest possible solemnity, and with the rite assigned in Missal for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed." The favour of the privilege altar is granted to all celebrants; and to the rest of the faithful, on the usual conditions, a plenary indulgence applicable to the suffering souls.