

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.

CARDINAL MANNING has written of the new Irish Temperance movement inaugurated by the archbishops and bishops of Ireland on Passion Sunday "it will, I believe, save Ireland."

MR. GLADSTONE, in answer to an invitation to visit Ireland, has written: "My reason for not visiting Ireland is that my going there may tend to exasperate our opponents in Ulster, whose severance on the Irish question from most of their fellow-countrymen, as well as from their own ancestors, is perhaps the greatest Irish misfortune of the present day."

CARDINAL TASCHEREAU, the Archbishop of Quebec, has issued a pastoral letter to the clergy and faithful of his diocese on the subject of the relations between Church and State in Canada and the duties of Christians. He inveighs against the attempt to drag the Catholic Church into political disputes, and says the Church despises and discountenances those politicians who seek to use her as the steps of a ladder whereby they may climb into power and obtain influence for their own selfish purposes. Their action is equivalent to a usurpation of the rights of the Church.

THE session of the Ontario Legislature was prorogued on Monday last, and the *Toronto World* pointedly asks what practical good its proceedings have been productive of. What useful or beneficial measure has been placed on the statute book or what useless law wiped out of existence? "The members," says the *World*, "have come and gone, and that is the sum total of it all. Yearly sessions of the Ontario Legislature have degenerated into a farce, and they cost the people of this Province \$125,000 annually." A stronger argument against the continuance of such a body as

the Ontario Legislature than its failure to discharge any useful function, is the positive injury which it can be made to work by unscrupulous office seeking factions who reck not of disturbing the public mind, or attacking the rights of conscience of minorities. A glance at the unlovely demagogism of Mr. Meredith and his faction from first to last throughout the session just closed must, we should think, convince any man, unless he be wholly the slave of prejudice, that the less a deliberative body composed of such elements has to do with questions of so wide an interest as Education, and the conscience clauses in the Constitution, and the more its activities are confined to the concerns of municipal and county government, the better will it be for both the Provincial and the general interest.

MR. MEREDITH'S line of conduct in the Legislature during the past session, meets with the fullest approval, it is worth while to observe, of the Orange and the Equal Rights authorities. In its last issue the Orange organ published in Toronto says that "Mr. Meredith has promised the people of Ontario that if they place the reins of power in his hands and in the hands of those who think with him, he will undo all the evil that can constitutionally be undone without menacing or depriving the Roman Catholic people of a single vested right. He will make them free agents instead of pawns under the fingers of the Church, and will again control the Separate Schools as the British North America Act intended they should be controlled, in the interests of the Catholic people and of their higher and better secular training and education, and not in the interest of the Roman Hierarchy or for the spread and promulgation of the dogmas of the Roman Church."

"Very soon," we further read, "the people of this Province will be called upon to make a choice, and those who think as we do upon this burning question of separate education cannot for a moment halt in their opinion as to which leader they will follow to the polls."

If the reins of power be placed in the hands of Mr. Meredith, "and in the hands of those who think with him." Ah, yes, but who are they who think with him? And if Mr. Meredith were called upon to form a Government who are they with whom he would be certain to surround himself as colleagues? Who indeed but Mr. Creighton of the Orange Lodge at Owen Sound? Who indeed but Mayor Clarke, the editor of the *Orange Sentinel*? Who indeed but Messrs. French, Monk, Clarke, (H. E.) and Marter—all Orangemen and Brothers? As Mr. Fraser remarked in the course of his recent speech in reply to Mr. Meredith, "the Grand Lodge would be in session when his Executive was called together!"