

# 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.*

Vol. II.

Toronto, Saturday, Feb. 25, 1888

No. 2.

## CONTENTS.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK .....	17
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE—	
The Late Mgr. Bruyere..... W. J. McD.	25
University of Ottawa.....	2
Pop Macdonnell: An Old Letter .....	2
SELECTED ARTICLE—	
Freemasons on Freemasonry..... Rev. Dr. Parsons	18
EDITORIAL—	
A Chivalrous Friendship.....	22
The Decline of Eloquence.....	22
The Irish Race and the Saloons.....	22
The Ballot Resolution.....	23
An Explanation from the Mover.....	23
Dr. Johnson on Ireland.....	23
The Old time Toryism and the New.....	23
CURRENT CATHOLIC THOUGHT—	
Bishop Ireland.....	25
Protestant Visitors.....	25
CATHOLIC AND LITERARY NOTES .....	
ADRIAN CHURCH NEWS .....	24
MR. O'SULLIVAN'S BOOK.....	26
STORY—	
A Tale of a Garnishee .....	25

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There is nothing so uncertain as politics. A week ago the Ministry was secure for an indefinite term of years we were told, since then we have witnessed cabinet reconstruction and bye election reverses. "A few days ago," cabled the New York *Herald's* correspondent, (a member of Parliament) on Monday, "all seemed bright and clear in the ministerial firmament. Since then an earthquake has happened, and although the fabric stands there are ominous cracks and fissures in its walls. To make light of the Southwark election, as the *Times* does, is ridiculous. A majority of 113 against the Conservatives at the previous election has now rolled up to nearly 1,200. 'Not much of a shower,' says the *Times*. To less partial eyes it looks like the beginning of a deluge."

Friday was an unlucky day for the Tories in the House and the country. They were beaten in Southwark, and their champion, Mr. Goschen, made a fiasco in the House of Commons. It was a night of excitement and surprises. Mr. Gladstone's speech, all sides admit, the *Herald's* correspondent says, to have been a masterpiece of eloquence, holding the House for two hours entranced, and, in the end, carrying the whole audience, strangers as well as members, by storm.

Mr. Goschen undertook the gigantic task of replying to him, and collapsed. "He stumbled (the correspondent says) hesitated, turned backwards and finally lost himself altogether. He dealt in puerile personalities, labouring long at trivial points, challenged interruption and then was disconcerted by it. Finally he got off the track altogether and bumped along anyhow until he went

to pieces. A more ignominious collapse I never have seen."

Then as to measures; they are as important as men. The Coercion bill cannot be depended upon for much longer, and the country is asking "What about the introduction of remedial measures for Ireland?" The Liberal Unionists are pledged, and so are many Conservatives, to vote for sweeping measures of reform in Irish local government. Such measures have been promised, yet from the forthcoming local government bill Ireland is specially excluded. Ireland, presumably, is to have the "twenty years of resolute government" that Lord Salisbury threatened. The attempt it is certain will end in a Tory disaster.

Mr. Gladstone, the correspondent adds, is more confident than ever of the return of the Liberals to the Treasury benches before many months are over. He has not looked so well for several years. His voice is stronger than it was two years ago, and his great strength as an orator and debater brings out into startling relief the weakness of the Ministerial spokesmen. The Irish members, too, present a formidable front. Mr. William O'Brien's speech on Thursday, the first he made since his incarceration, was a passionate and scathing piece of invective. Mr. Balfour, he said, had failed to smash Irish organizations, to weaken the spirit of the Irish people, or to degrade them in the eyes of the world. When he was in prison he resented and felt keenly Mr. Balfour's insinuation that he had sheltered himself while in prison, under the plea of illness. Now they were face to face, and he challenged the Government to produce the prison doctors to prove the truth of that insinuation. All that the imprisoned members complained of was the moral torture inflicted upon them, from which ordinary criminals were exempt. When the Government asked them to voluntarily acknowledge their kinship with criminals they answered: "We will die first. You will have to learn the difference between representatives of the criminal classes and the Irish political prisoners, even if it takes coroners' juries to announce the distinction." Mr. O'Brien's speech was profoundly impressive.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach has been readmitted into the Cabinet, and Tory eyes are turned wistfully on Lord Randolph Churchill. Such is the mediocrity of their talent that Churchill is looked upon as their ablest debater, and their most popular man in the country. "The Tory party," writes a well informed correspondent, "is on the down-grade. Obstinacy in reactionary sentiments and blindness to the signs of the times will not save it. The day is coming when it must be led by men in sympathy on all points with the democratic people. If that should not soon be recognized so much the worse for the Tories."