

# 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.

It may be that THE REVIEW is a journal of the "I told you so" family, but, if so, it belongs, at any rate, to the cheerful branch of it. When Archbishop Cleary began drawing out Mr. W. R. Meredith it required no great perspicacity to foretell that the leader of the Ontario Opposition would experience before many days a bad quarter of an hour.

"The Stanstead result," remarks the *Montreal Gazette*, "seems to have been singularly happy all around. The Equal Rights people say they are satisfied; the Conservatives feel they are satisfied, and the Liberals are not growling, and so may be set down as satisfied also. There has been no such all round happiness recorded since Canada became Canada."

Premier Mercier, speaking of the result in Stanstead said:—"I am delighted with the result of the Stanstead election. The fanatics have been crushed and Stanstead has shown that this province is not favourable to fanaticism. What the ultimate political result of the defeat of the Equal Rights movement will be, I cannot say. I am not prepared to say that it will disappear altogether, because there is no doubt that there are many respectable and influential people connected with it. One notable feature of the election is that nearly 8,000 electors abstained from voting."

The *Toronto Mail* in a characteristic paragraph, complains that Mr. Colby had canvassers outside of, as well as within, the county of Stanstead, and it quotes with disapproval the following telegram which was sent to Mr. Colby by the Rev. Mr. Carson, a Methodist clergyman, now of Kingston, and formerly of the Dominion Square Methodist church, Ottawa:—

KINGSTON, ONT., DEC. 13, 1889.

"HON. C. C. COLBY, STANSTEAD:

"I read your nomination speech with unbounded satisfaction. Such statesmanlike utterances are a prophecy of good neighbourhood among the people of Canada. Each sentence is the tone of a bell that calls the nation to worship at the altar of patriotism and peace.

"W. W. CARSON."

A generous and onlightened expression of this kind fits not at all to the *Mail's* taste, and it resents the Rev. Mr. Carson's entrance into the domain of politics. That, we suppose, is because Mr. Carson has not hesitated on more than one occasion already to say of the *Mail* that in fanning into life every ember of ignorant and embittered fanaticism, it is pursuing a course as immoral as it is traitorous and unpatriotic. That, to the *Mail* writer, doubtless constitutes a shocking misuse of the ministerial office. But the public

will search in vain, in the *Mails'* columns, for any reproof of the clerical incendiarism and fanaticism of such men as the Wild's and the Wilson's, and that very numerous body of parsons who have not thought it foreign to their mission as Christian ministers, for now several months past, to apply, as Mr. Colby reminded his hearers in his nomination day speech in Stanstead, such terms as "liars and skunks" to our most honoured, honourable, and honest public men, of whatever political party.

The recent speech of Mr. Meredith to his constituents at London is to be viewed, on every ground, with disappointment and regret. In it the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature has dropped to the level of a demagogue. Mr. Meredith took the pains to repudiate, with some heat, the suggestion that he could be capable of permitting himself to be carried into power on a No-Popery platform, and we will do him the justice to say that, until his speech at London the other night, he was generally regarded as a man of wide liberality, and good feeling. But we regret to say that notwithstanding Mr. Meredith's professions, his speech, almost from first to last, was an address to bigotry and to prejudice. It stands as a declaration of political war upon the existing rights of the Catholic minority of the Province. Mr. Meredith puts himself on record, unequivocally, as opposed to the Separate School system, and since that system chances to be guaranteed to them under the Constitution, it remains for him and those who think with him, to curtail it to the fullest extent possible. The recent amendments to the Separate School Act relating to the assessment and the disposition of taxes—the securing of which has led to great improvement in the efficiency of the schools—he would forthwith abolish. In short, upon these, and upon such other points in our provincial politics as the giving of religious instruction in the schools, and the teaching of French in those in the Eastern part of the Province, Mr. Meredith adopts the *Mail's* programme; and we think that journal is fully entitled to the credit of channing, as it does, that time has brought it its revenges, and that Mr. Meredith's London speech is the *Mail's* triumph, in that it is a distinct and definite acceptance of every substantial plank in the Equal Rights platform. Certain it is that Mr. Meredith's speech gives unbounded satisfaction to the Equal Rights party, and the orators of that faction are already announcing that time and the hour have brought forth their man.

The result of Mr. Meredith's move, we presume, will be to again divide the Province, as it was divided at the election of 1886-87, upon a religious issue, and we may be permitted to say that we deeply regret it and not upon any narrow or merely denominational grounds, but upon the broad ground of the common good, and of a patriotic desire for the country's well being. These are not the methods, Mr. Meredith must know, which will go to the building up of a united people and a united nation. So far as the Catholics of Ontario are concerned they will maintain those rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution, and while we have little fear either that Mr. Meredith will succeed in writing them off from the statute book, or that, as the Archbishop of Toronto said a few days ago, the sense of justice which is so strong in the people of Ontario will permit them to be swept into the committal of any act of injustice against the Catholic minority of the Province, yet we greatly fear that the attempt will be detrimental to the best interests of the country, and will create a feeling of bitterness which will be by no means confined to one province of the Dominion.