

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.

No better test of the attitude of the Protestant minority of Quebec towards the "No Popery" crusade begun in this Province than the occasion of the recent election in Compton, in view of the time and place of the contest, could well have been afforded. The *Witness* of Montreal, and the *Mail* of Toronto, had been hammering at the Dominion ministers for weeks, as the true culprits who were responsible for the Jesuit legislation; Compton itself is one of the strongest of Protestant counties, so that it is difficult to conceive of any better opportunity of testing the Protestant sentiment of the Province. Surely if the excited statements of these papers were true and justifiable, and if there was the least apprehension of danger to civil and religious liberty from the operation of recent Quebec legislation, the electors of Compton would have recorded their protest. But so far from this happening, Mr. Pope, the Ministerial candidate, was returned by an increased majority over that obtained by his father, the late member, at the last general election.

The lesson these figures teach ought not to be lost upon the people of this Province. "Those well-meaning persons there," says the *Montreal Gazette*, referring to the agitation in Ontario, "who have allowed themselves to be misled by the didactics of the *Mail* school into the belief that the civil and religious liberties of the Protestant minority in Quebec are in danger, and that a violent breach of the fundamental principles of the constitution has been made in recent provincial legislation, may read in the result of the Compton election the true feeling of that minority. The people of Quebec can safely be trusted to attend to their own affairs, and to right whatever is wrong in the administration of them. Least of all are they prepared to join hands in a propaganda,

the consequence of which must be disastrous to the peace, progress and prosperity of Canada by creating a religious war and dividing political parties upon sectarian lines."

Our Montreal correspondent very tersely describes in another part of this issue, the methods to which the *Mail* has had recourse in the preliminary hearing of the libel suit instituted against that journal by the Society of Jesus. We commend it to the attentive perusal of our readers.

In the course of their arguments on Saturday last, the counsel for the plaintiffs expressed their willingness to meet the defendants on the plea of the unconstitutionality of the Act incorporating the Jesuits, and on the consequent plea that they could not sue in the courts, but maintained that all the other issues raised in the exception to the form should be set aside. Referring to Paul Bert's work, *La Morale des Jesuits*, produced as an exhibit, Mr. Greenshield's called it a libel on the Jesuit Order, for which he would, no doubt, be also prosecuted were he in Montreal. The book was such that its author had condemned it himself before his death. Mr. Greenshield's further asserted that since George III. the statute of Queen Elizabeth requiring Catholics to take the oath of supremacy had been repealed and the Catholics of Quebec were now only obliged to take the oath of allegiance. To the charge made that the Jesuits extended their work beyond the Province of Quebec, he replied that if they spread the faith beyond the limits of this Province it was an act to their credit, and not one that should stand against them. Mr. Doherty, Q. C., on behalf of the plaintiff, also claimed insufficiency of particulars in respect to the alleged rules and regulations of the Jesuits. The case was taken *en delibere* with the result that the court decided ordering that the *Mail* strike out from its plea a number of vague and sweeping allegations.

Mr. Gladstone having been presented with a book on divorce written by Mr. J. A. Gemmil, an Ottawa lawyer, has addressed a reply to the author in which he says: "Reflection tends to confirm me in the belief that the best basis for law is the indissolubility of Christian marriage, that is to say, to have no such divorce or severance as allows re-marriage."

Already the Rev. Father Wendelm Moellers of Belgium, is at Molokai, where Father Conrady has assumed the burden to which Father Damien, for years past, had been tied. Since last June Father Conrady has been performing the work begun by Father Damien; He, too, is a Belgian, about 35 years of age. He was ordained for the mission of Oregon, and in that archdiocese labored for several years, until the sacrifices of his countryman inspired his emulation.