

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 OF THE WEEK.

Speaking at Carlisle a few nights ago, Mr. Michael Davitt declared that the Irish alone could settle the land question with the landlords. He went further than this to say, that he hoped support would be withheld from any land purchase scheme that might be proposed in England, even though it were suggested by Mr. Gladstone himself.

Mr. Charles L. Laçaita, M.P., for Dundee, a Liberal and Home Ruler, has retired from Parliament. He is still a Home Ruler, but announces as the cause of his retirement, that he cannot steadily support Mr. Gladstone. He believes him to be lacking in moderation, and to be hindering the conclusion of Home Rule in Ireland. By resigning, Lord Roseberry told him he played the game of his foes.

On the invitation of the Oxford University Russell Club, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., on Monday delivered an address in the Corn Exchange. Mr. Dillon reviewed the history of Ireland and said, the agitation in that country was necessary and justifiable. Without agitation the Irish would not have obtained the Land Acts, and it was a lasting honour to the Irish that they had refused to submit tamely to the detestable Castle Government.

Upon the conclusion of the new trial of Lord Mayor Sullivan, of Dublin, which was begun on the 1st inst., for printing reports in the *Nation* of suppressed branches of the National League, the Government, it is believed, will

institute prosecution against the publishers of a number of other papers for printing similar reports. The case of the newsdealer in Ennis, who has been imprisoned for selling copies of *United Ireland*, the sale of Mr. O'Brien's paper having been proclaimed, is the first in which a person has been prosecuted for selling newspapers. The arrest of news agents in this connection, the *Freeman's Journal* asserts, is illegal; but if legal, then the Dublin depots of the Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith's news companies must be prosecuted against similarly, since they have sold thousands of *United Ireland's*.

In a recently published letter written by Mr. Balfour the Irish Secretary refers to the "grotesque episode of Mr. Wm. O'Brien's clothes. Mr. O'Brien, he says, is not treated in Tullamore prison with either leniency or severity, and that he has succeeded in sheltering himself under the medical opinion that his lungs are delicate, and his heart's action weak. In a letter smuggled from Tullamore gaol to a friend in Dublin, Mr. O'Brien has thus replied to Mr. Balfour: "The substance of Mr. Balfour's statement that I pleaded weak action of the heart and delicate condition of the lungs as an excuse for not being forced to wear criminal clothes, is a cruel falsehood. I am not aware of such weakness and certainly never declared it. The medical examination never referred to this, my only weakness being in my left lung, which does not trouble me at present. If Mr. Balfour is acting on the belief that the state of my health renders the application of brute force dangerous, the course he has pursued could not be recommended on the score of humanity. For six days after committal I was subjected to constant threats of force and put on bread and water diet. When this proved fruitless I was led to believe that the point would not be insisted on. Thereupon my clothes were stolen. Since securing new clothes I have been unable to change them night or day for fear of their being stolen. No official intimation has yet been given to relieve me of this continued strain. This letter is the only means of vindicating myself against Mr. Balfour's foul and dishonouring imputations. Henceforth I shall not speak concerning my health. I do not take any nourishing food. In the face of intolerable calumnies, I leave it to honourable men to judge the chivalry of Mr. Balfour's false and heartless insinuations."

The elaborately arranged Unionist meeting held in Dublin on Tuesday, for the purpose of addressing which Mr. Goschen and Lord Hartington were brought over from London, though fairly successful in point of attendance, could hardly have been representative of Irish public opinion. The speeches of Mr. Goschen and Lord Hartington were nothing more than a rehash of I. L. P. U. platitudes. The Liberals and Nationalists, Lord Hartington said, were the deceivers of the Irish people, while he and those with him were the true friends of Ireland. The surroundings says the *Freeman's Journal*, proved that Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen were avowed enemies of Ireland. Detectives guarded the two Englishmen as if they were a couple of czars. The meeting was attended only by those who held tickets, and no claim could be made that it was a free expression of public opinion.