

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.

ON the eve of our going to Press news has reached us that the Hon. Mr. Mercier's Government has been again returned to power in Quebec, with increased majority.

FATHER DRUMMOND, S.J., has been appointed Rector of St. Mary's College, Montreal. Father Drummond is well known for his eloquent defence of the Society of Jesus from the attacks of its enemies, during the recent excitement. It is to be hoped that, if possible, the new Rector may see his way so to modify the existing rules of the College that its incomparable advantages for training Canadian youth, may be as easily attained by the English-speaking Catholics of the Dominion as it is at present by the French-Canadian youth.

THE *Mail*, in the course of the week published, what was evidently intended to be a dignified and impartial article on the coming of the Franciscan friars to Canada. It could not entirely refrain from speaking disparagingly of its old enemies, the Jesuits, and accused them of being the cause of the former withdrawal of the friars from this country. A slight knowledge of the object of the Franciscan Order would, however, have made it clear even to the biased mind of an anti-Catholic writer, that the Franciscans are not primarily intended for missionaries, and that, when possible, they should give up the field to the Order which has always been to the front in such work.

The memory of the sufferings and death of the Jesuits in this very Province, for the furtherance of Christianity, ought to be sufficient to stop flippant remarks as to the selfishness of an Order, which, according to the *Mail*, displayed its usual greediness in grudging the Franciscans

the refined tortures and diabolical cruelties of the Indians.

It is to be regretted that such selfishness is not more common now, for the Jesuit pioneers, in the country of the Great Lakes, in the early history of Canada, had not \$2,000 a year and frequent vacations to cheer their lot, like their Protestant imitators of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

THE most notable article in a recent issue of the "*Edinburgh Review*" is one on "The Catholic Democracy of America," in which Mr. Bodley chronicles the astonishing growth of Catholicism in the New World. He describes how—"from a small and quasi-aristocratic sect in a small corner of the British colonies, and from a missionary propaganda among the Indian tribes in other portions of the territory now under the American flag, it has grown into one of the most powerful and most democratic religious communities which the world has ever seen, and one which is fated to leave a lasting mark on the history of christendom.

THE article is written throughout in a fair and dispassionate manner, and due credit is given to the early Catholic founders of Maryland, for their religious toleration, which was in violent contrast to the petty spite, and in some case bitter persecution, meted out to those in New England, who had the ill luck to differ in doctrines from the over-praised and eminently narrow minded Pilgrim Fathers.

MR. BODLEY, who pays a well deserved tribute to Cardinal Gibbons as a "great statesman," discovered, to his amazement, when his article appeared in the *Review* that the editor had tagged on a page altogether out of harmony with the ideas of his contributor. Says the editor, writing as if he were Mr. Bodley—

"It fills us with unbounded astonishment that a people which claims to be, and is, so intelligent and enlightened, and which was once so ardent in the cause of religious freedom, should worship the idols of ecclesiastical despotism." Happily the spirit which animated the writer of this appendix is nearly dead in the Old World, and when it shows itself occasionally by such inconsequent and irrelevant remarks, the only feeling excited is one of amused compassion. In Canada, unfortunately, such tirades are still too common in the columns of those journals whose pride it is to adopt everything British, except the trifling particulars of fair play and no misrepresentation.