

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.

Mgr. O'Brien sailed on Wednesday by the Peruvian for Rome.

An exhibition of presents for the Pope, on the occasion of his approaching jubilee, was opened at the palace of the Archbishop of Paris on Tuesday. The display which is very rich, includes gifts from the Count and Countess of Paris, the Duke of Chartres, and other members of the Orleans family.

The programme has been made public of the ceremonies attending the celebration of the Pope's jubilee. On December 31st the Holy Father will receive the members of the International Committee, who will present him with a gift of 1,000,000 lire; on January 1st he will celebrate mass in St. Peter's; January 2nd he will hold a public reception at the Church of San Lorenzo; on the 4th and 5th he will receive foreign deputations, on the 6th he will open the exhibition of the gifts presented to his Holiness, and on the 15th the Pope will canonize ten saints.

It is rumoured that the Hon. Edward Blake is being pressed by leading Liberals to enter English public life. A seat in Parliament will be found for him, and he will be asked, it is said, to accept a place in the next Liberal Cabinet. Mr. Gladstone, who is sensible of what Mr. Blake has accomplished for the Irish cause in the Dominion, and of his great powers as a debater, believes that his entrance to the Parliament at Westminster would be an occasion of great strength to the English Liberal party.

The *Daily News*, commenting on Mr. Balfour's Birmingham speech, in which he declared that the government was resolved to proceed boldly and firmly in its course of coercion in Ireland, says that the absurdity of Mr. Balfour's supposition that he can suppress Ireland is only equalled by the absurdity of the supposition that the Liberals of Great Britain will remain silent on the question. If Mr. Balfour continues his present course the

News believes his ministry will fall amid general laughter or public execrations.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien, M.P., resisted the attempt to force him to put on the uniform of the Tullamore gaul. On the advice of the prison physician the governor desisted on account of the unfavourable state of Mr. O'Brien's health. On Monday a despatch stated that no further attempt had been made to compel him to put on the prison garb, but that he had been put on bread and water and would be starved into submission. Mr. Moorhead, a magistrate who had an interview with him, states that the atmosphere in Mr. O'Brien's cell, together with a bread and water diet, is likely to have a fatal effect on a consumptive person. The breaking down of Mr. O'Brien's health he thought only a question of time. Since then Mr. O'Brien has been removed to the infirmary.

The *Tablet* announced a short time ago that it was authorized to state that the report that Lord Mayor elect de Keyser, of London, had ceased to be a Catholic was wholly without foundation, and that it had explained to Mr. de Keyser that it accepted his assurance as equivalent to a contradiction of the statement that he is a Freemason. To this, the *Tablet* in its last issue says an answer has been received from the Mansion House, the essential words of which are that "He," the Lord Mayor elect, "looks upon Freemasonry as a merely charitable institution, and, as such, he belongs to it, and he intends to remain a member of the craft." In other words the new Lord Mayor is not content to be even as those politicians who sit upon a rail, but he will accomplish the more astonishing feat of sitting upon both sides of the fence at the same time. "We are not concerned," adds the *Tablet*, "to say hard thing of English Freemasons, it is enough to know that Freemasonry all the world over has been condemned by the Vicar of Christ."

The announcement that at the Cabinet Meeting on Thursday last, it was decided after hearing Mr. Balfour's report on the state of Ireland, that the coming session of Parliament should see the introduction of a land purchase scheme for Ireland, has since been contradicted. Several schemes, including Mr. Chamberlain's, are said to have been suggested, but no particular plan of purchase has yet been decided on. It is safe to say, that the submission of some scheme of land purchase is definitely determined on, and that legislation of that nature will find an early place in the Government programme. The Government's own supporters admit that it must submit, and at once, some remedial measures. The *Spectator*, certainly one of the ablest and most influential of the Unionist papers, realizing the difficulties of the Coercion Ministry and anticipating fresh danger for it, remarks:—"The strange power of attraction which for six centuries has enabled Irishmen to make all who came among them, whether conquerors or friends, more Irish than themselves, is rapidly at work and rapidly disorganizing and degrading English opinion. It would be unquestionably wiser for the Government to introduce a land purchase bill, if only it be complete, and give it immediate effect."