

The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite quæ sunt Cesaris, Cesari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

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Notes.

His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, accompanied by his secretary, Mgr. Marois, and Mgr. Paquet, Rector of Laval University; Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax; Rt. Rev. Dr. Howley, Vicar Apostolic of Newfoundland; Archbishop Duhamel, of Ottawa, and Bishop Lafleche, of Three Rivers, are among the Canadian prelates who have left for Baltimore to attend the Catholic Centenary.

"We ventured to hint many months ago," says the *Weekly Register*, "that among Catholic members of the Conservative party who could not follow their leaders in opposition to Home Rule was the Marquis of Bute. He has now made the declaration over his own name, in an article in the *Scottish Review*, and in a sense even more sweeping than many a Gladstonian member would accept." It gives it no small pleasure, the *Register* says, to see Lord Bute show the courage of his opinions, in the first place because it has been always obvious that a dislike of the Catholic Church was the main motive of the opposition to Home Rule, which makes it natural for Conservatives, who are Conservatives, should find themselves unable to co-operate with their political friends on this question; and in the second place of Lord Bute's great ability, great wealth, and conspicuous position.

The Catholic Congress which opens at Baltimore on Monday next, will be the first general gathering of the Catholic laity in the annals of the Church in America. The Congress will remain in session two days; and the programme of its proceedings have already been published. The various subjects have been allotted to the most learned and competent men for discussion. The views of the Congress, it is probable, will be expressed by means of resolutions, and we may expect from it some vigorous and weighty pronouncements upon many questions of great Catholic moment which are pressing forward for solution, such, for example, as the needs of the Catholic Press, and the vexed educational questions.

The utterances of Congress on these, and other points, it is anticipated, will be of great interest and importance.

The Government offices in St. Gabriel St., Montreal, were on Tuesday morning last, the scene of a notable gathering called to witness an historical event—the payment of the grant of \$400,000, voted to the Society of Jesus as a compensation for their estates. The Quebec Premier was surrounded by his colleagues Hon. Messrs. Gagnon and Rhodes, Mgr. Labelle, and the representative of the Holy See, the Rev. Father Turgeon, S.J. Cardinal Taschereau was represented by Mgr. Tetu. The Premier had issued special invitations to all the members of the Legislature residing in Montreal as well as to members of the Legislative Council.

Before the deed of settlement was signed Mr. Mercier addressed the assemblage. Having expressed regret that a more eloquent voice than his own had not been found to express the feelings which were paramount in his heart, he proceeded to declare that he was sincerely devoted to the British Constitution, and would defend it to the end. After briefly reviewing the negotiations Mr. Mercier concluded as follows: "I thank Providence, and God is my witness, that throughout this entire affair I have been guided by the purest of motives; and I make the most fervent prayer that peace may reign everywhere, not only among Catholics, but among Protestants also, and that all may unite in proclaiming the advent of civil and religious peace. There is no doubt but this is the desire of the great majority, and as regards the agitation which has been raised, and which, it appears, still exists in certain quarters, I have nothing to say. I make no charge against those who may think differently from me. Having rendered justice to the religious authorities I must say nothing to disturb the peace of this great day. We believe we did right; if others think otherwise let them take the responsibility of their acts. History will relate in its pages, when passion has calmed down, who were right and who were wrong. However, above us all stands an impartial Judge before whom all must appear, Catholic and Protestant, French and English. He will judge us all with more equity than men may sometime have done."

Father Turgeon, in his reply said it was not his purpose to defend his Society, because it stood in no need of defence. "But speaking," he said, "as I do now, as a French-Canadian, I may say that our history has been written in blood upon the soil of our native land." After referring with pleasure to the Jesuits' Estates legislation, he said: "You can tell the public we are loyal to the Crown of England, as our history proves; and that the last drop of blood which shall be shed for it in this country, may yet be shed by a Jesuit." The speeches of Mr. Mercier and Father Turgeon will appear in full in our next number.