

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

Reddite que sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et que sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt. 22: 21.

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NOTES.

The Isle of Thanet, Division of Kent, a veritable stronghold of Toryism, gave a refuge and a constituency to Col. King-Harman when Ireland became too hot to hold him. With his landlord record and his treason to the Irish cause before their eyes, the electors of the Isle of Thanet sent him to Parliament with a majority of 2,088. His death left a vacancy in this most Tory district of Tory Kent, and the election to fill it came off on Saturday. But mark the difference in the result from that of the previous contest. Harman's majority of 2,088 is reduced to one of 658 for his successor, James Lowther, and the falling off of over 1,400 votes is not due to any inferiority in the character of the candidate, for he is immeasurably the superior of his predecessor. It simply means that the tide has turned and that the people *en masse* are rapidly coming round to Mr. Gladstone's way of thinking. The end can not be far off.

Apropos of the celebration on Monday last of the twenty-first anniversary of this fair Dominion of ours, "Laclede" writes in the Montreal Gazette:

"In the lobby at first, at the head of the grand stairway leading to the House of Commons, and, since, in the Library of Parliament, facing the main door, was hung and hangs a large painting that represents the Fathers of Confederation. The picture was paid for by public money. It is not a great work, but the likenesses are fairly good, the grouping is natural enough, and the whole is a record of an historical event.

"This painting should be photographed and spread among the people by engraving. The scene is one that ought to be familiar to every Canadian. In the midst sits Sir John, the master-mind through it all; and he is surrounded by such men as every province has ground for being proud of, because every province was represented by its best men. The Quebec Conference of 1864, where the foundation of the scheme was laid, consisted of more members than the definitive one at London in November, 1866.

"The eye rests complacently on George Brown, George Cartier, Alexander Galt, Charles Tupper, Leonard Tilley,

Hector Langevin, William Henry, Adams Archibald, Hamilton Gray, Edward Chandler, William McDougall, Edward Palmer, Peter Mitchell, and poor D'Arcy McGee. Most of them sit, and a few stand at a long table, littered with papers that shall go to make up the British North America Act. Through a large window, in the back ground, is a view of Canadian scenery fit to inspire these statesmen who are working for the future of their country."

And he goes on to sketch the events which culminated on the 1st July, 1867, in the federation of the various provinces of British North America, remarking, as a spur no doubt to young Canadians of to-day to remember that they are Canadians, and to be proud of the fact, that:

"Thus on the 1st July, 1867, the two provinces of Old Canada joined the two Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. And thus, as D'Arcy McGee put it, 'a new nation was made.' In June, 1870, Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories were bought from the Hudson's Bay Company for \$1,500,000. In view of what that land has turned out to be, it was the greatest bargain Canada ever made. By map measurement Canada has to-day a broader surface of acreage than the United States, to the skeptical amazement of our American friends."

"Westward the Star of Empire," and the rest of it, is as true to-day as it was in Berkeley's time. There is nothing to fear in this, but rather is there ground for rejoicing. The great Northwest will be as loyal, as devoted to Canada, and as ambitious of her progress as we are to-day. And we may ask for no more. On this twenty-first anniversary, the young people shall pledge themselves to keep their birthright whole, free from the harm of visionaries and demagogues and revolutionists, and strong with the union of all forces against the inroads of the wretched spirit of discord, arising from race and creed." These words have the true ring. They proclaim that Canada has a future and a destiny, and that that future and that destiny depend upon ourselves. Canadians we should be first and last, loving our country, proud of her, and labouring like true sons for her with all our hearts. This is too often forgotten now-a-days.

The Jesuit's Bill has passed its third reading in the Quebec Assembly and will doubtless become law without further opposition. No opposition in the House there has been next to nothing, mainly, we suspect, because the non-Catholic members could not find any just ground on which to oppose the Bill. It is a mere matter of restitution and as such few men would care to stake their reputation in seeking to defeat it. The Mail's Ottawa correspondent raises the question of disallowance by the Dominion Government, but what we have said as to opposition in the Provincial Legislature applies with equal force to the Federal authorities. It is also said that the Orange Lodges are going to interest themselves in the matter, but that is their own concern. If they wish to expend their energies and their finances for nothing Catholics have no serious objection. The Lodges have ceased long since to have any weight upon the councils of the nation, and the Dominion Government is not likely to lend itself to an act of injustice, merely to satisfy a faction whose motto, whatever else it may be, is certainly not fair-play.