

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

Reddite que sunt Caesaris, Cesari; et que sunt Dei Deo.—Matt. 22: 21.

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We give below a translation of the greater part of the Pope's reply to the Jubilee address of the Irish Episcopate, which was read to the Pope on St. Brigid's Day by Archbishop Walsh, in the presence of the pilgrims from Ireland. As in the past, Ireland found in the Apostolic See her stay and defence, the address read, so they felt confident in the future it shall ever be, and that in asserting the just rights of their people, and in healing the calamities of their country, they should find in His Holiness a tender father, a protector of the weak, and a potent defence. The Holy Father's reference to the German Catholics and the May Laws, has, of course, been construed by the coercionists as an exhortation to the Irish to lie down and be trampled upon by the administrators of the Crimes Act, forgetting that the Catholics of Germany, though resorting to no violent or improper means, refused to obey the enactments that struck at their religious liberties. Furthermore, they forget that, in the letter to the Archbishop of Dublin, to which he made reference, the Holy Father says of the Irish: "They surely have a right to reclaim the lawful redress of their wrongs. For no one can maintain that Irishmen cannot do what is lawful for all other people to do."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Deptford election on Wednesday resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate, but by a largely reduced majority. The election was made necessary by the retirement of Mr. Wm. J. Evelyn, a short time ago, who was elected to Parliament as a Conservative and Mr. Evelyn recently announced himself as a convert to Home Rule, and resigned his seat in order to allow Mr. Wilfred Blunt to stand as an advocate of that principle. The vote on Wednesday was, Mr. Darling, (Conservative), 4,345; Mr. Blunt, 4,070. At the last election the Conservative candidate had a majority of 627.

Not many of the stories circulated by the London papers about the attitude of the Pope on the Irish question have as much presumption of truth in their favour as the one credited to the *London Chronicle* on Wednesday: "The *Chronicle* states that in reply to a request of the Duke of Norfolk that the Pope use his influence with the Irish bishops to stop the agitation in Ireland, Mgr. Rampolla, Papal secretary, said that the British Government could, by some act or concession, grant a privilege to Irish Catholics which would form a pretext upon which to build a letter to the bishops."

Mr. Gladstone wrote a letter to the electors of Deptford in support of Mr. Wilfrid Blunt's candidacy for the House of Commons. He urged that Mr. Blunt went to Ireland to maintain the law, to vindicate popular rights, and to encourage the people in an orderly struggle against Coercion. He added: "To speak of the Union affording to the people the benefit of equal laws with the British is a mockery. The electors ought to remember that the Tories are aiming to degrade and oppress another people struggling to be free."

The Pope's reply was as follows:—

"It is true, indeed, that from the very beginning of our Pontificate we turned towards Ireland with paternal care. We were moved by her many claims upon us, but most of all by the integrity of that Catholic faith which, established by the labours and zeal of St. Patrick, was preserved by the unconquerable fortitude of your ancestors, and by them transmitted to you to be guarded as a sacred inheritance. And well, indeed, may you rest assured that our feelings of good-will towards you are unchanged: for, as it meet, we shall always hold in affection the children of Ireland, and perseveringly labour for their peace and prosperity, so that we shall be deemed to justify the confidence that you have reposed in us. To this feeling of affection we have recently given abundant expression in sending our venerable brother, the Archbishop of Damietta, with certain instructions bearing upon the present state of affairs, that we may be aided by his report in ascertaining the actual condition of things, and the steps that in your interest it may be desirable to take. But in the difficulties that beset you let what is contained in the letters addressed by us some years ago to the Archbishop of Dublin be taken as a safe and sure rule of action. Its claim is founded not only upon religion, which is the chief glory of the Irish race, but also upon the public good, inasmuch as in no circumstances could the interest of the commonwealth be promoted if justice, which is the foundation of order and of all good things, were transgressed. Recently, as is known to you, the Catholics of Germany, acting with moderation and with regard for law, have under our guidance and through our intervention come safely out of a trying position. Why may not a like result, through God's mercy, be obtained in Ireland in a similar way? We put the fullest trust, then, in the authority and wisdom of the bishops of Ireland, and in the uprightness of the Irish people, whose reverence for the Holy See, and whose obedience to their bishops have ever been the subject of praise."