

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

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

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Notes.

We shall publish in our next number an interesting review of "When We Were Boys," Mr. William O'Brien's novel. The requirements of space necessitate our holding it over until next week. Mr. O'Brien's novel is the work of an Irishman of imagination and genius. As our readers know it was written to beguile the tedium of the author's prison hours. It was Cardinal Newman, we think, who said that a thought could not be blown away, even by a Krupp gun, and, as Miss Mulholland, another gifted Irish writer has lately said, if Mr. O'Brien's imprisonment is to produce such intellectually delightful results, Mr. Balfour will have to devise some other kind of torture.

"I will not submit to a leadership of assassins, and I publicly resign," writes the Rev. Father McKenna, of Boston, the national Vice-President of the Irish National League in America, in relinquishing his office. In the ordinary course of events the reverend gentleman will now find himself inveighed against as a "spy," and a "traitor," and as the creature of "British gold." That is the usual way in which Irishmen of principle have been answered, who refused to connive at the crime and rascality which has been practised, in America, in the name of Irish patriotism.

THE REVIEW'S readers have had put before them in these columns some good literary fare lately. Articles such as those on "Mrs. Browning," "The late Father Meehan" and "The Character of Oliver Cromwell," which may be found in our two preceding numbers, are of an order of scholarship and of literary excellence by no means commonly met with. In this number will be found the continuation of the "Reminiscences of Dr. Brownson;" an article of great power from the pen of Father Finley, S.J., the distinguished editor of the *Dublin Lyceum*, "The Priest and the Public," and two other articles of merit, that on the Manitoba School Question, and the sketch of "Pere Monsabre." Both are fine examples of the best literary style; the former as finished a bit of satire, and the latter—which comes to THE REVIEW from the pen of a Canadian lady resident in Paris—as charming a piece of graphic descriptive writing as the reader will come upon in some time. It

has been by providing from week to week reading matter of this sort—reading matter, we beg leave to add, of a range and excellence not to be met with elsewhere outside the magazines and monthlies—that has given this REVIEW its already high reputation, and its strong claims to the interest and support of the Canadian Catholic public, now so generally acknowledged.

WEDNESDAY last was another Jesuit day in the House of Commons, for which the country is indebted to Mr. Charlton. That gentleman, who really would be better advised were he to subside for a time until an afflicted House has been given a brief space—and a brief space, if it were permitted them, would be enough—in which to experience the refreshment of forgetting him, on Wednesday moved a resolution of want of confidence in the Government because the Ministry did not refer the constitutional and legal points involved in the allowance of the Jesuits Estates Act, to the Supreme Court. This action on the part of Mr. Charlton was the more wanton in view of the important resolution presented to the House only the day previous by Mr. Blake, and adopted by unanimous vote of the House—a resolution which provides, namely, for the reference by the executive in future, on grave occasions, of important questions of law or fact touching the exercise of the power of disallowance, to a high judicial tribunal and the obtaining a reasoned opinion for the information of the executive. The passage of this resolution which was designed to obviate future difficulties of the sort that lately arose in respect of the Jesuits Estates legislation, and the question of disallowance, forms, along with the masterly speech in which Mr. Blake presented it to the Commons, one of the most notable acts of the session. We say, therefore, that for Mr. Charlton to again spring, the day following, a debate in the House upon the Jesuit question was utterly wanton and disturbing.

MR. CHARLTON spoke in support of his resolution at his accustomed painful length. He appears to have discharged all his old anti-Jesuit and, possibly, anti-French, speeches over again. He said nothing new. He made bold, however, to charge that the Minister of Justice, in submitting his memorandum to the Law Officers of the Crown had ingeniously— he perhaps said Jesuitically—prepared it so as to present but one side of the case; and he interlarded through his speech many insinuating references to the Jesuits and indeed all Roman Catholics. For about the twelfth time he was again utterly crushed by Sir John Thompson in reply, who dealt with Mr. Charlton argument by argument. It was reserved though for Mr. Blake to give Mr. Charlton his finishing blow, who rebuked him in sarcastic language for his presumption in disposing of the legal phases of an involved constitutional matter. The question was one, he said, to be treated in a spirit contrary to that, which, he was sorry to say, animated the mover of the resolution, if any good were to come of the discussion, "may, more," said Mr. Blake, "if a great calamity is to be averted."