

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.

THE REVIEW will publish next week the full text of Mr. Gladstone's great speech on the removal of the existing disabilities against Catholics. The debate, it is admitted even by Mr. Gladstone's opponents, will be a memorable one in Parliamentary annals on account of the speech in which the aged leader moved this important measure, and which old parliamentarians pronounced to have been one of the best efforts of his long life.

WE learn from the Ottawa papers of Tuesday that the Rev. Father Gendreau announced on Sunday last in the *Sacre Cour* church of that city, that on Sunday next a collective *mandement* from the Quebec bishops relative to the pending elections will be read. The statement is further made by a Quebec journal, *L'Electeur*, that the *mandement* will ask the electors to "vote only for those candidates who will bind themselves to do justice to our unfortunate compatriots in Manitoba and the North-West."

THE *Journal* of Ottawa states that on enquiring of Archbishop Duhamel as to the correctness of the statement, His Grace replied that he could not yet say if the *mandement* spoken of would be read next Sunday or later. The *mandement* before being printed and read in the Catholic churches through the country, must first be signed by all the bishops of the three ecclesiastical provinces of Quebec, Montreal, and Ottawa. He, for one, had already signed it, but he could not speak for the other archbishops and bishops to whom it had not yet been submitted.

Being asked as to the nature and the purpose of the *mandement*, the Archbishop said he could not divulge its contents now. All he could say was that the *mandement* was on the subject of the Manitoba School Act and that only the bishops of the three above named ecclesiastical provinces would be asked to sign it.

THE same journal states that on enquiring of another church dignitary if the *mandement* was likely to affect the prospects of either Liberal or Conservative candidates in Quebec, answered "Not at all." "As I understand it," he continued, "the *mandement* will assert the rights of the Catholics of Manitoba to have their own schools just the same as we have them in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. The government on which the blame should rest in that matter is in the Greenway Government of Manitoba.

THE act of the Manitoba Government to which the above refers, is as follows: At the last session of the Legislature Attorney-General Martin carried through the House a law

abolishing the Separate School system, then in force in the Province. The Catholics of Manitoba by meetings and resolutions and through various channels refused to recognise the new law, claiming that it was contrary to the constitution granted to Manitoba by the Federal Parliament. They refused to pay the school taxes imposed, and their school commissioners throughout the Province continued to raise taxes to support their own schools and employ the same teachers. A test case was carried to the courts and at the same time an appeal for disallowance was made to Ottawa. The test case has been twice dismissed in different forms by the courts and the Federal Government has not yet taken action on the appeal for disallowance. If no disallowance is announced on April 10 next, a year from the time the Federal Government received the Bill, the Manitoba Roman Catholics say they will appeal to the Supreme Court and the Privy Council of England.

A PASTORAL letter from Archbishop Logue, primate, was read in the churches throughout Ireland last Sunday week, condemning Mr. Parnell's conduct and warning those engaged in the Boulogne negotiations to take care that the compromise reached be definite, as the country would have the last word to say on their issue. Several Irish Bishops, following the example set by Archbishop Walsh, have written letters to the clergy of their dioceses in opposition to Mr. Harrington's appeal to the members of the National league to reorganize in view of the general elections. Archbishop Walsh advised clerical members of the league to combat such Parnellite "packing" by refusing to join in the trickery.

IN reply to Archbishop Walsh Mr. Harrington says that the Archbishop misjudges the objects of the League's circular, which is similar to those issued annually by the League. Mr. Harrington further says that he informed Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien before issuing the circular that in consequence of the collapse of the American tour he had determined to ask the League branches to help evicted tenants. Mr. Harrington advises the Archbishop not to commit the priests too hastily to a policy which will lead to two hostile camps in every parish.

ALL hope of reconciliation between the two opposing Irish parties being now ended, both sides will at once begin, it is believed, an active campaign in Ireland. It is further asserted that Mr. Parnell's propaganda will partake largely of an anti-clerical character, representing the interference of the bishops and priests in the present struggle as dangerous to the National cause, and carrying on the contest to a great extent on the principle of resistance to clerical dictation. If so, it is certain that the campaign will be prolific of much evil. While we have no fear that Mr. Parnell will be able to break the relations of confidence that have always existed between the priests and the faithful people of Ireland—a confidence which was begotten in, and proved by, centuries of persecution suffered in common—yet it would be useless to conceal that, seriously entered upon, from such a course only serious consequences can ensue. Bad passion and feuds and increased disunion are certain to follow it, whereas all the while what Ireland pre-eminently calls for in her sons is a regard for conciliation and the spirit of peace—a union of heads, if not of hearts.

ON the anti-Parnellite side the campaign will be prosecuted, it is likely, with equal vigour. As announced in another column in this issue, arrangements are in course of completion for a new organization to supersede the old National League. The majority party, that is to say, the followers of Mr. Justin McCarthy, are convinced that the great majority of the electorate in Ireland is with them, and they count, in the event of a dissolution occurring, upon coming back to Parliament 70 strong, instead of 58 as at present.

