

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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LETTER

FROM HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO.

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE, Toronto, 29th Dec., 1886.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have singular pleasure indeed in saying God-speed to your intended journal, THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY REVIEW. The Church, contradicted on all sides as her Divine Founder was, hails with peculiar pleasure the assistance of her lay children in dispelling ignorance and prejudice. They can do this nobly by public journalism, and as the press now appears to be an universal instructor for either good or evil, and since it is frequently used for evil in disseminating false doctrines and attributing them to the Catholic Church, your journal will do a very great service to Truth and Religion by its publication.

Wishing you all success and many blessings on your enterprise,

I am, faithfully yours,

† JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH,

Archbishop of Toronto.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

The Pope is writing an encyclical on the subject of Socialism. He will treat concisely of social problems, distinguishing good and lawful from dangerous and unchristian combinations.

Archbishop Croke has written to the Pope in explanation of his attitude on the rent question. He says he has proposed nothing, nor has he made any recommendation relative to taxes. He has simply expressed an opinion concerning the relative value of the No-tax manifesto and the No-rent manifesto. He states that it never entered his head to recommend a general uprising against the payment of taxes. He trusts alone to constitutional agitation for the restoration of national rights in Ireland.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt writes to the *Times* to show that the troubles in Ireland arise from the attempt of the Government to enforce the payment of rents which their own Land Commission has declared the people are unable to pay. He quotes from the speeches of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and other Conservatives made last year, in which it was admitted that if Mr. Parnell was able to prove all the promises of his Tenants bill the Government would be bound to attempt to supply a remedy. The Land Commission, says the writer, proved Mr. Parnell to be in the right, yet the Government, instead of bringing a bill to deal with the judicial rents, proposed fresh coercion measures.

It is understood in Rome that Mgr. Rampolla, the Nuncio at Madrid, has accepted the Secretaryship of State in succession to the late Cardinal Jacobini. Mgr. Rampolla del Tindaro is a Sicilian by birth, and has had

a brilliant career. He first went to the College Capranica; he went thence to the Academy of the Noble Ecclesiastics, and then to the Roman College. He was such a hard worker that he was nicknamed the Taciturn. Caring little for worldly pleasures, and being very studious, he is more of a theologian than a diplomat or a politician. He was at one time Charge d'Affaires at Madrid, then Secretary of the Propaganda for Oriental Affairs, next the Secretary of the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, and finally he was made Nuncio at Madrid, where he enjoyed the full confidence of the Court.

As the time approaches for the development of Lord Salisbury's Land and Coercion schemes, symptoms of disturbance in the Ministerial ranks increase, and signs of disintegration are apparent in all the purlieus of the Tory camp. The resignation of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chief Secretary for Ireland, which was tendered ostensibly because of illness, is said by many to be an unmistakable sign of want of cohesion in the Ministry. Indeed, the haste with which his place was filled—the new Minister being the relative of the Premier—suggests a desire to bridge over some weak spot, and is in itself a sign of some demoralization. On the other hand, the concurrent closing up of the Liberal ranks within the past few days is remarkable, and the position of affairs has changed so much in Mr. Gladstone's favour that when both parties are finally beaten to quarters, the Liberals are likely to present a compact front, which will not only include the whole of the Chamberlain Radicals, but several Liberal-Unionists as well. The dominant cause for the impending re-union is the substantial agreement which has certainly been reached between Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Chamberlain and Sir George Trevelyan on the Home Rule question.