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THOS. COFFEY,
Publisher and Proprietor.
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LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.

London, Ont., May 23, 1879.
DEAR MR. COFFEY.—As you have become proprietor and publisher of the CATHOLIC RECORD, I deem it my duty to announce to its subscribers and readers that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its aims and principles; that it will remain, what it has been, thoroughly Catholic, entirely independent of political parties, and exclusively devoted to the cause of the Church and to the promotion of Catholic interests. I am confident that under your experienced management the RECORD will improve in usefulness and efficiency; and I therefore earnestly commend it to the patronage and encouragement of the clergy and laity of the diocese. Believe me, Yours very sincerely,
J. W. WALSH,
Bishop of London.

MR. THOMAS COFFEY,
Office of the "Catholic Record."

Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, JAN. 13, 1882.

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS.

The conduct of the British Government in its treatment of Irish political prisoners is certainly deserving of a most severe condemnation. It is still no doubt in the recollection of many that some years ago the present premier of England, Mr. Gladstone, treated Europe to the most magnificent effusions on the question of individual liberty. His letters, which at the time were the admiration of all who read them, were written on behalf of the insurrectionists of Naples, whom Francis I. imprisoned in order to secure the tranquillity of his kingdom. We all remember how bitterly Mr. Gladstone assailed the action of the Neapolitan authorities, but it seems that what would call for condemnation if done under an Italian sky is perfectly legitimate within the United Kingdom, for Mr. Gladstone's government has gone much further than ever king Bomba went in depriving citizens of their liberty. In Naples it was the crushing of a veritable insurrection—in Ireland it is the tyrannical gagging of legitimate agitation. The fact that the Irish prisons are to-day filled by honorable gentlemen who enjoyed the confidence and esteem of their fellow-citizens, and that the government does not dare to put them upon their trial, is bad enough. But when we add to this the further charge that these prisoners are subject to a treatment worse than cruel in the matter of food and lodging, the whole action of the government is an outrage on humanity. That they should be deprived of their liberty, looking at the question from Mr. Gladstone's standpoint—though the world will refuse to regard it in this light—may be perhaps considered justifiable by men whose principles are as elastic as those of Mr. Gladstone. But under a regime like that of the British government, whose boast is that England is the freest and most constitutional country in the world, it is certainly strange that a number of respectable gentlemen should be cast into prison without charge, without trial, and without the means of justifying their conduct. It is a principle of English law that any man charged with a crime will be considered innocent until he has been proved guilty. As innocent men these prisoners have certainly a right to a humane and kind treatment. That they are not treated in a kind or humane manner is evident from the various complaints which, notwithstanding the vigilance of Irish gaol officials, find their way to the public ear. This we consider the foulest blot upon the boasted civilisation of England, who on every conceivable occasion has been lecturing the different nations of Europe on the subject of individual liberty.

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A "CONVERT" TO METHODISM.

Our cotemporary the Christian Guardian, in reviewing the events of the past year, claims that "the political movements in France have not been the only sign during the year of the decline of Romanism," and takes comfort in the fact that a Canon of St. Peter's had become a Methodist. It is strange our Toronto friend can find any degree of satisfaction in the accession to his Church of a person whose scandalous mode of living called forth ecclesiastical censure before he took it into his head to leave the church. His fast life, his vanity, his foppish proclivities, and many other qualities unbecoming not only a Canon, but even a layman, were matters of every-day talk on the streets of Rome long before he resolved to become a star in the Methodist firmament. It is a curious fact that, no matter how bad a life a man may lead—no matter how rank a weed he may be in the Pope's garden—once he takes it into his head to go out or to be cast out, he is considered a holy man—a "brand snatched from the burning." We doubt not our cotemporary, when reviewing the events of the present year, will not have cause of rejoicing over the acquisition of the Roman apostate. The Catholic Church is stronger when she shakes off these excrecences, and we feel assured the evangelical sects scarcely ever have cause of congratulation when they attach themselves to their churches.

But has the Catholic Church really lost ground? We will answer this question by quoting a paragraph which appears in another column of the Guardian of the same date. It is as follows: "A correspondent of the London Tablet is authority for the statement that during the past thirty years great numbers of the laity, and over 300 of the clergy, of the Anglican Establishment have become converts to the Catholic Church." We might remark that it is not honest to assert that "a correspondent is authority, etc." Most Protestants would be inclined to doubt the truth of this assertion when given in such a vague manner. Our cotemporary might have added that the names of these converts were all published a year or two since in a leading Protestant paper of England, under the heading of "Rome's Recruits."

As to the progress of Protestantism in continental countries, the only authority we have is the bare word of well-paid missionaries who find it indispensable to their own comfort and prosperity to tell some extravagant stories in order that they may be permitted to retain their positions. We may take for an example the work of the missionary societies in Ireland. If we were to believe the published statements of the proselytisers, during the past thirty years, the whole population of Ireland has been "converted" to Protestantism. And so it is in Italy and Spain and France. Protestantism does not and cannot make any progress in these countries. The people are either Catholics or infidels.

A REBUKE.

The corporations of Dublin and Cork have extended the freedom of these cities to Parnell and Dillon. This is a circumstance which proves beyond doubt that the heart of Ireland is true to the imprisoned suspects and that England's government holds no place whatever in the esteem of the vast majority of the Irish people. Another very significant occurrence is the fact that the extensive farm of Mr. Parnell was a few weeks ago put in a state of thorough cultivation by an immense concourse of people. No less than 600 carts were employed, and in the process of ploughing 183 ploughs worked together. Gladstone and Forster have fifty thousand foreign soldiers at their command in Ireland. Parnell, Dillon and Davitt have millions of Irish hearts at their command.

THE NEW IRISH ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The gentleman who, by the resignation of Lord Chancellor O'Hagan, finds himself called to the attorney-generalship of Ireland, has appealed to an Irish constituency, and the grounds on which he asks their suffrages are certainly, considering the causes of the present trouble in Ireland, a strange one. In 1880 Mr. Parnell and his colleagues advised the Irish tenants to pay none but a fair rent, and this was made the motto of the agitation. For this these gentlemen were cast into prison, and after some time were put upon their trial before a jury of their countrymen, and acquitted. Today Mr. Taylor, the new Attorney-General, in his address to the people, asks them to vote for him and fair rent. It is really wonderful how the very cause that plunged one man into prison, under the present English government, would by an officer of the same government be employed as a reason why Irishmen should give him their suffrages. "Consistency, thou art a jewel."

WHAT AN ENGLISH EARL SAYS.

English Earls are supposed to be intelligent persons. We have evidence, however, of at least one who is either very stupid or very ignorant, and this is Earl Derby. A few days since he delivered a speech at a Reform Club meeting in Liverpool. Referring to Home Rule for Ireland he said: "America is not a despotic or reactionary country, but we know how she dealt with secession, and we see how thoroughly the traces of the sanguinary conflict have disappeared. I do not see why we should show less determination, or have less good fortune." We might be permitted to inform the noble Earl that the Southern States were in possession of the privileges of Home Rule before the war broke out. What they desired was to break up the Union and establish an independent nation. The Irish Home Rulers ask the same privileges enjoyed by the Southern people both before and since the war. Have the people of Canada, Australia and the other British colonies seceded from Great Britain because they enjoy Home Rule? Have the people of Ontario seceded from Canada because we have a local legislature in Toronto? The people of Ireland simply ask to be allowed to manage their own local affairs the same as the different states of the American Union, and the same as the different Provinces of Canada. This the noble Earl calls secession, which proves that the noble Earl must either be a very ill-informed person, or that he was laboring under some unusual excitement induced by the festivities of the Reform Club.

A PRETTY LITTLE STORY FOR THE POOR LANDLORDS.

The Leeds (England) Mercury has manufactured a very beautiful little story which will perhaps create a wave of sympathy for the poor, dear, down-trodden, boycotted landlords of Ireland. Millions of people will most assuredly shed bitter tears because of the dreadful straits in which are placed the kind souls who have been so good and considerate to those Irish people who would starve despite all their philanthropy. Never, never, again will the people be delighted with the presence of the magnificent hunt over their farms. Never again, perhaps, will continental countries be favored with the presence of those accomplished gentlemen, the Irish landlords, and English Lords who are also landlords in Ireland. Times are changing. Fate seems to have taken these noble personages by the coat collars and given them an unmerciful shaking. Here is the story referred to. We found it in a city cotemporary of a recent date, and reproduce it for the benefit of this down-trodden class. We are, however, forced to condense it somewhat. It is really too pathetic in its entirety!

There was a sea captain, we are told. His name is not given, but for convenience sake he is called Captain Jack. Well, Captain Jack's father is an Irish landlord. He came home suddenly and found the

family starving. Captain Jack couldn't stand it; of course he couldn't. It was more than flesh and blood could bear; so he sallied out with revolver in hand to hunt up the tenants who owed rent to his father. He met one, who is called Tim, in a public house, and the revolver had the effect of taking from Tim a cheque for three hundred pounds. Tim must have carried his cheque book in his pocket, you see, and also must have been swindling his landlord and hoarding up immense wealth.

This is in substance the story of a poor Irish landlord. It is very touching, and it must be true, because it is taken from an English paper, the Leeds Mercury. Lo! the Poor Landlord!

BISMARCK AND THE VATICAN.

We learn from the cables of Saturday last that Bismarck has addressed a note, kind but explicit, in which he politely informs Humbert that the question of the people's independence is one which does not concern the home policy of Italy as much as it does that of entire Europe. Though we do not place much confidence in these messages from Europe, yet we have no doubt that, if the necessity of the independence of the Holy See has not yet been recognised, the day is not far distant when the thrones of Europe will find that their stability will need the support of an independent Papal power. With communism reigning supreme and plunging royal houses in mourning, the kingdoms of Europe will surely need the moral restraining power ever exercised by the Holy See to keep in check the passions of turbulent men, and the royal houses of Europe will find their greatest security in sustaining the Vicar of Christ, who ever teaches submission to legitimate authority.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH IRELAND?

This question has often been put to us by persons acquainted with the manner in which the country has been governed by its conquerors. "What is the matter with Ireland?" "Has she not, in conjunction with the other two Kingdoms, the benefits of the most glorious constitution on the face of the earth?" These are the questions invariably propounded by persons whose knowledge of history is derived from the newspapers. But occasionally the newspapers pick up scraps of history which serve to set men thinking, and reflective minds have long since come to the conclusion that it is really wonderful the Irish people have so long borne the terrible hardships and unjust exactions consequent upon their forced connection with England, a nation whose selfishness and national greed have, in the present day, been so clearly demonstrated, that happy and contented nations gaze on her with that contempt which her hypocrisy so richly merits. The following written by Mr. Lecky, the historian, will serve in some measure to demonstrate "What is the matter with Ireland?" After reading it carefully, many persons will, no doubt, be not much astonished at the existence of Home Rulers and Land Leaguers:

"The Duke of St. Albans, the bastard son of Charles the Second, enjoyed an Irish pension of £200 a year; Catherine Sedley, the mistress of James the Second, had another of £5000 a year. William bestowed confiscated lands exceeding an English county in extent on his Dutch favorites, Portland and Albemarle, and a considerable estate on his former mistress, Elizabeth Villiers. The Duchess of Kendal and the Countess of Darlington, the two mistresses of George the First, had pensions of the united annual value of £5000. Lady Walsingham, the daughter of the Duchess of Kendal, had an Irish pension of £1500. Lady Howe, the daughter of Lady Darlington, had a pension of £500. Madame de Walmedon, one of the mistresses of George the Second, had an Irish pension of £3000. The Queen Dowager of Prussia, sister of George the Second, Count Bernstorff, who was a prominent German politician under George the First, and a number of other less noted German names may be found on the Irish pension list."

In addition to the prodigates mentioned in the foregoing list as having been quartered on the Irish pension establishment, Froide mentions Sophia Kielmasch, another mistress of George the Second, who was created Countess of Leinster and endowed with £2000 a year. Besides the pensions there were the salaries for English sinecurists which were almost as scandalous. Mr. Lecky says on this subject: "Until Lord Townsend's administration the Viceroys were always absent from the country from which they derived their official incomes for more than half, usually for about four fifths, of their terms of office. Swift, in one of his 'Drapers' Letters,' written in 1724, has given a curious catalogue of the great Irish offices, some of them perfect sinecures, which were then distributed among English politicians. Lord Berkeley held the great office

of Master of the Rolls; Lord Palmerston that of the First Remembrancer, at a salary of nearly £2,000 a year; Dedington was Clerk of the Rolls, at a salary of £5,000 a year; Southwell was Secretary of State; Lord Burlington was hereditary High Treasurer with an income of £9,000 a year; Addison had a sinecure as Keeper of the Records in Birmingham Tower, and four of the Commissioners of Revenue lived generally in England."

DIOCESE OF KINGSTON.

The following letter which was read in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, and which we take from the Daily News of that city, explains itself. It certainly must be most gratifying to his Lordship Bishop Cleary to see his efforts to free the diocese of Kingston from its debt so generously seconded by both priests and people. Certainly the generosity with which his Lordship's call has been responded to is a grand example which might be well followed by the sister dioceses in their different diocesan undertakings.

To the Congregation of St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston:

Being under the necessity of going from home for ten or twelve days to take part in the deliberations of the bishops of this province respecting matters of high ecclesiastical interest, I desire to express to you, my good and faithful parishioners of Kingston, my best wishes for your welfare, accompanied by my prayers to God for the spiritual and temporal happiness of yourselves and your families throughout the new year. This is a fitting occasion for me to declare that you have deserved well of me since my advent amongst you, and have made me feel happy in the discharge of my duties as pastor of this city and diocese by rendering to me not only the duty of obedience, but the more pleasing homage of kindness and affection manifested in various ways, public and private. You have been most attentive to your religious duties and docile to my instructions; and, on a recent occasion, when I was pleased to visit me with a domestic affliction, you extended to me the comfort of your kindly sympathy. A still more public and striking proof of your thorough Catholic spirit of loyalty to your church and your bishop has been exhibited to me and the diocese generally in your ready and unanimous approval of the arrangements made by me, in conjunction with a committee of twelve priests of the diocese, for the extinction of the diocesan debt, and your noble response to the call made upon you for \$4,500—your share of the liability; more than half the amount having been subscribed the first day, and all but a trifling of your entire liability being now discharged. The action of Kingston parish in this respect could not have failed to edify the entire diocese and serve for a good example. Although a whole year has been allowed to each parish for the payment of its share of the debt, it is most cheering to be able to announce that contributions have been already received from twenty-two parishes amounting to thirteen thousand two hundred dollars, that thirteen parishes have entitled themselves to special distinction by the payment in full of their liability in these first weeks; and that the pastors of the other missions have almost without exception, arranged with me respecting the convenient time and method of collecting their apportioned sum at no distant day in the new year. Thus the debt, which hitherto oppressed the diocese of Kingston, and fettered the hands of its bishops, is virtually discharged; and for this I hereby publicly thank my zealous and beloved clergy and most dutiful people throughout the whole extent of the diocese, and in a most particular manner my loyal and loving Catholic congregation of St. Mary's Cathedral. May the Divine blessing come abundantly upon you all, upon Kingston city and Kingston diocese in this new year of grace and for many years in succession.

JAMES VINCENT CLEARY,
Bishop of Kingston.

Dec. 31st, 1881.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

HERE is a noble act being performed by the Emperor of Austria. He is erecting at his own expense a Memorial chapel on the site of the Vienna theatre, lately consumed by fire, in which a thousand human lives were sacrificed. Mass will be annually celebrated in this chapel for the repose of the souls of the victims. The Emperor also contributed munificently towards relieving those who were deprived of means of support through the dreadful occurrence.

EACH soldier in the British army costs £120 a year, and Mr. Gladstone has now some fifty thousand troops in Ireland. These figures put together mean that the overloaded British taxpayer is mulcted at the rate of six millions sterling a year for the maintenance of an army to support the landlords in evictions, which are "equivalent to death sentences," and in rack rents, which are levied out of "confiscation titles," and out of improvements "nine-tenths of which have been effected by the tenants."

THE Duchess of Marlborough, in the Morning Post of London, touchingly alludes to the "spoliation" which the landlords will have to suffer from the Land Courts! Poor fellows! they deserve a large share of sympathy. Perhaps some of them will be "spoliated" to such a degree that it will be impossible for them to enjoy themselves on the continent as usual, squandering hundreds of thousands of pounds wrung from a starving peasantry. Would it not be in order were the

Duchess to touchingly allude to the "spoliation" which the people of Ireland suffered when their lands and their homes were confiscated by the government and handed over to the ancestors of many of the present holders of large estates.

A FEW months since an Italian firebrand named Gavazzi came to Canada to make money on the credulity of the sects. This he succeeded in doing in a manner most satisfactory to himself. The sects of Toronto held high jubilee while he remained in their midst, and a Methodist paper dubbed him, "The noble old man." The following paragraph from an English paper of a recent date will most certainly convince our friend that the old man was not so very noble after all—"Signor Gavazzi, who is described as an 'English preacher,' was yesterday sentenced by the Seine Tribunal to thirteen months' imprisonment for immoral behavior." More than thirty years ago this man was denounced by Wrigginton (a Protestant), in his "History of Modern Italy," as a "preacher of sedition and active subverter of order."

A LONDON Tory paper says: The irony of destiny has never made itself more apparent than in the career of John Bright. One illustration may suffice to substantiate this statement. No man has so energetically denounced the existence of sinecure offices. He designated them as jobs, founded for the sole purpose of affording outdoor relief to the aristocracy. This, however, was before he had attained his fiftieth year or worn the Queen's livery. Since then we find him holding one of the most lucrative sinecure offices under the Crown—that of Chancellor to the Duchy of Lancaster. Beyond the signing of tickets giving admission to fashionable marriages at the Savoy Chapel, Mr. Bright has really nothing else to do than to draw his salary of £2,000.

WHAT a terrible castigation is that given by the Episcopal Bishop of Rochester to narrow-minded and ignorant bigots who have been ordained as ministers of the thousand and one minor sects of Protestantism. Would it could be read to them in their conventicles when they are loudly declaiming against a religion of which they know so little.

After describing "her magnificent claims, her consummate organization, her sonorous authority, her grand traditions," he adds the pertinent advice, "Do not despise her, for nothing serves her purpose so well. Do not mouth at her; she is worth all the reasoning we can find. Single souls, and beautiful, still go out from us to her and seldom come back. Exaggeration and ignorance, a spurious liberalism and a petulant bigotry equally play her game and fill her ranks." We would commend a study of the Bishop's remarks to the Rev. Dr. Savage, of the Wellington street Methodist Church, in this city.

THE Catholic Church has always given her benediction to labor. Summoned by her holy bell, the peasants, whose welfare she has cherished, have gone forth to their labor until the evening, and some of her learned communities have worked with hands and arms, in no amateur spirit, but in the frank way of business; and it is with pleasure that we put on record labors of hand and arm which the Franciscan Capuchin Fathers are prosecuting at Chester. Funds and facilities failed, it appears, for the building of the necessary schools, and the Provincial of the Order, the Reverend Father Pacificus, has led his sons into the breach. For the last two or three months these brave ecclesiastics have been at work, digging, brick-laying, building, carpentering, for the sake of the children of the Catholic population among which they live. The erection of the schools has been begun at the rear of the church, on the last piece of land available to the community. The Provincial unloads bricks, with his sleeves rolled up on his capable arms; a scholarly-looking friar digs at his side; another, whose hair and beard are white, is laying the mortar; a group of lay brothers are at labor with them. Men of many nations, they form a picture as real, sincere and charming as it is quaint. The world just now is eager after the deliberate idyllic and the picturesque by premeditation. The little scene at Chester is as unconscious as nature herself.

BISHOP CLEARY.

Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Kingston, spent a few days this week with His Lordship Bishop Walsh.

The little property that Archbishop MacLachlan owned in and around Tuam, he bequeathed to the trustees of Maynooth College for the establishment of bursars to support indigent students from Tuam and other dioceses in Ireland.