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THOMAS COFFEY,  
CATHOLIC RECORD,  
London, Ont.

**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 patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its tone 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,  
+ JOHN WALSH,  
Bishop of London.

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

## Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1880.

### THE DISSOLUTION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The dissolution of the British Parliament, announced in both houses on Monday, the 8th inst., is another proof of the consummate skill of Lord Beaconsfield as a Parliamentary leader. The intention of the government was kept a profound secret till the very last moment. Not since Pitt ran down "a fox in every borough in the kingdom," was the Tory party so well disciplined for a fight as it is at this moment. The recent elections in Liverpool and Southwark have given the party confidence, while the continued and marked dissociation of the Liberals and Home Rulers must work to the disadvantage of the regular Opposition. The contest will, however, be severe, and though the government may return with a majority, that majority may be so diminished as to place the balance of power in the hands of the Home Rulers. Earl Beaconsfield's letter to the Duke of Marlborough is certainly as strong an appeal as could, from an imperial point of view, be pressed on the constituencies at this juncture. Speaking of the policy of his government towards Ireland, he declares: "During the six years of the present administration the improvement of Ireland, and the content of our fellow-countrymen of that island have occupied the care of the Ministry, and they may remember with satisfaction that in this period they have solved one of the most difficult problems connected with its government and people, by establishing a system of public education open to all classes and all creeds." After thus referring to his efforts to settle definitely one of the most vital of the domestic concerns of Ireland, in which it must be conceded he achieved no small success, the Premier alludes to the question of Home Rule. "Nevertheless," he proceeds, "a danger, in its ultimate results scarcely less disastrous than pestilence or famine, and which now engages your Excellency's anxious attention, distracts that country. A portion of its population is attempting to sever the constitutional tie which unites it to Great Britain, and that bond which has favored the power and prosperity of both. It is to be hoped all men of light and learning will resist this destructive doctrine." The noble lord then adroitly attempts to fasten on the Liberal party a latent sympathy with the Home Rulers. "There are some," these are his exact words, "who challenge the expediency of the imperial character of this realm. Having attempted and failed to enfeeble our colonies by their policy of decomposition, they may perhaps now recognize in the disintegration of the United Kingdom a mode which will not only accomplish but precipitate their purpose." On the question of his foreign policy, he speaks thus pointedly: "The power of England and the peace of Europe will largely depend on the verdict of the country. Her Majesty's present Ministers have hitherto been enabled to secure that peace so necessary to the welfare of all civilized countries and so peculiarly the interest of our own. But

this ineffable blessing cannot be obtained by the passive principles of non-interference. Peace rests on the presence, not to say the ascendancy, of England in the councils of Europe." The *Times* says of the Premier's letter, that there can be no doubt that for some important reasons, it constitutes a very forcible appeal. "Recent elections have shown that at this moment, on the mere issue of foreign and imperial policy, the government may fairly count on the support of public opinion. The Liberal party during the last few years have made such fatal errors that it may almost be said of them that they have left no further faults to be committed by them." This latter statement, coming from a journal formerly in sympathy with the Liberals, is certainly a strong impeachment of the course pursued by that party. The *Daily News*, on the other hand, thus summarily deals with Lord Beaconsfield's letter: "A more bold, indefinite, and unsatisfactory address was never issued by a party leader on the eve of a great constitutional struggle. This reticence may interpret, and be interpreted by the barrenness of Lord Beaconsfield's administration in all useful legislation. No ministry of modern times has spent six legislative years to so little purpose; but Lord Beaconsfield would probably spend another six years, if the country should give him a chance, in creating agitation and disturbance abroad to call off attention from needed reforms at home."

While the contest in England will be severe, it will in Ireland be the most exciting that has taken place since the union. At the general election of 1874, three parties in Ireland contended for popular support. Besides the Liberal and Conservative parties, a new and much more powerful party than either appeared in the struggle. A review of that contest may be of assistance in enabling us to draw inferences for the coming constitutional battle. At the election of 1874, it must be remembered that the Home Rulers were without any well-organized plan of campaign. They, nevertheless, succeeded in winning the two seats in each of the following counties: Cavan, Clare, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Kings, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Queen's, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary and Wexford, and one seat in each of the following counties: Kerry, Kildare, Westmeath and Wicklow, carrying in all thirty-eight seats in the rural constituencies. The Conservatives carried the two seats of Antrim, Armagh, Carlow, Donegal, Dublin, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Tyrone, with one seat in each of the counties of Down, Waterford and Wicklow, a total of nineteen seats in the counties. The Liberals failed to carry the entire representation of any county except Londonderry, and obtained a seat in each of the following counties only: Down, Kerry, Kildare and Waterford, making but six seats secured by that party out of the entire Irish county representation. The Borough representation gave a still larger preponderance to the Home Rulers, who carried both seats in the cities of Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford, one of the metropolitan seats, and the towns of Athlone, Carlow, Clonmel, Drogheda, Dundalk, Dungarvan, Ennis, Kinsale, Mallow, New Ross, Wexford and Youghal each sending one member to Parliament. The Liberals were successful in the towns of Bandon, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Dungannon, Kilkenny, Newry and Tralee, each with one member. The Conservatives won both seats in Belfast, one of the metropolitan seats, and one member for each of the boroughs of Armagh, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Lisburn, Londonderry and Portlannington. In the coming contest, destined, as we have already said, to be the most memorable ever fought in Ireland, the struggle will be almost wholly restricted to the Home Rule and Conservative parties. The Liberals have no organization in Ireland, and will in most cases throw in their strength with the ministerial candidates. In any case, their hold in both the county and town seats now held by them is very precarious. The two seats for Londonderry and the one for Down held by Liberals

in this Parliament will not unlikely fall into Conservative hands in April, while Kerry, Kildare and Waterford will almost without doubt give their whole strength to Home Rule and Tenant Right. As to the towns now represented by Liberals, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Dungannon and Newry are almost sure prey for the Tories, while Bandon, Kilkenny and Tralee will almost as certainly fall under the control of the Home Rule party. It were very difficult, so uncertain are elections in all constitutionally governed countries, to attempt to forecast the result in the coming contest, but judging from present indications we are inclined to the opinion that the Home Rule and Tenant Right candidates will carry seventy or seventy-five seats in Ireland, leaving the remainder to the Conservatives and the Liberals. The Home Rulers have achieved a great moral victory in forcing the British Premier to make the question one of the issues in the coming election. It will in consequence receive more attention than ever the kindred question of repeal received from the British public in the days of O'Connell. What may be the outcome of the agitation, and of this great contest face to face with which the people of Great Britain now are, no man can tell. That it may result in a full measure of civil, religious and educational liberty for Ireland is the firm hope of the Irish population of Canada, and we doubt not of the vast majority of the readers of the RECORD.

#### MR. SHAW'S ADDRESS.

The address of Mr. Shaw, Home Rule member for Cork, has been issued. This distinguished gentleman who was elected by the Home Rule party to succeed Mr. Butt; is a man whose views command respect and attention in and out of Parliament. A large landholder, an enemy of sedition in every guise, a friend of Irish progress and a determined supporter of the Home Rule principles defined by Mr. Butt, his utterances will receive from all classes in Ireland that full and respectful consideration which may be said to precede conviction. In his address to the electors of the great constituency which by an unanimous vote sent him in 1874 to the Imperial Parliament, he denounces the Beaconsfield manifesto and accuses the government of systematic neglect of Ireland. No ground of impeachment against the ministry could be stronger than the latter charge for which Mr. Shaw must have ample reason. If we except their measures on education, the government have done little or nothing for Ireland, their measures were a step in advance of anything their Whig predecessors were prepared to do, but they certainly fell far short of the just and reasonable expectations of the Irish people. We have no doubt whatever of Mr. Shaw's triumphant return for his old constituency. His presence in the House of Commons will give dignity and strength to the advocacy of the cause he has already done so much to promote. With sixty or seventy such representatives, the true public opinion of Ireland could not be safely ignored at Westminster.

#### MR. PARNELL IN CANADA.

Brief as was the stay of this distinguished Irishman in Canada, it was long enough to impress us favorably in regard of one so cruelly misrepresented, and to impress him favorably with a people who enjoy the benefit of that self-government he is seeking to procure for the people of Ireland. The reception accorded Mr. Parnell in the city of Toronto was a credit to that city; but of the reception in Montreal we must say that it was a credit to all Canada. So great was the enthusiasm manifested in the latter city, that Mr. Parnell himself was free to admit that he had not in any city of America been received with such a genuine large-hearted welcome. His speeches, instead of being inflammatory and ill-connected harangues they were represented to be on the other side, were in Canada models of calm statement, moderate expression, and dignified argumentation. They were, indeed, devoid of the graces of oratory and the orna-

mentation of rhetoric, but did not the less favorably impress and convince his auditory. The Irish people of Canada take a deep interest in all matters affecting the welfare of their brethren at home. As it was pertinently stated by the learned chairman of the Toronto meeting, it is not through any inherent fault of Irishmen themselves, that they suffer so much in Ireland. Their suffering, and the consequent inferiority of their country in every walk of progress and civilization, must be attributed not to the people themselves, but to the system by which they are governed. For, as that same gentleman pointed out, here in America, where Irishmen and their descendants enjoy the advantages of freedom and self-government, they are behind no other race in progress, refinement, and education. The Montreal meeting may be justly looked on as a vigorous protest on the part of the Irish in Canada against the present system of land tenure in Ireland. Without a radical change in that system little of permanent good can be expected to flow from the present agitation. But with such a change as that proposed by Mr. Bright, Ireland would soon have a peasant propriety, a credit to the Irish race the world over, and a source of strength to the government. Mr. Parnell's mission, while not attended with perhaps all the success desirable, has left on the public mind of America impressions favorable to the great cause he represents, which time cannot eradicate, nor prejudice efface. Vainly was the cry of communism raised to detach from him the sympathies of the law-abiding public in the United States. No one who heard him could fail to perceive that his views are not identical with socialism. He is the friend of social order based on individual security, without which no order can subsist. He is the advocate of that form of government for Britain which has achieved such happy results in Canada and the neighboring States. To him must certainly be ascribed the credit of being mainly instrumental in forcing Lord Beaconsfield to go to the country on the issue of Imperialism versus Home Rule. He will during the coming elections have every opportunity to show that tact, discernment, and industry, so essential to a leader of men. He has reached the crisis in his life. He has the best wishes of the Irish people of Canada, that his leadership at this remarkable crisis in the affairs of Ireland and his own, may redound to the lasting advantage of the people whose cause he champions and to the honor of himself and his trusted supporters.

#### THE REJECTION OF ARTICLE SEVEN.

The French Senate has, contrary to expectation, rejected the famous article seven of the Ferry education bill by a majority of 148 to 129. M. Dufaure opposed the clause and described the bill as despotic and calculated to humiliate religion and violate liberty. This statement from a statesman so eminently republican, in the true sense of that term, must have produced a profound impression on the chamber. The defeat is a terrible humiliation for the blatant radical element which has thus far sustained M. de Freycinet's cabinet in its attacks on the church. M. Ferry has, in consequence of the rejection of his favorite clause, thrown up the seals of office, while M. de Freycinet has declared that the executive will now be obliged to enforce the very severe laws already existing against the Jesuits. If such laws could be enforced, why go to so much trouble to carry the article just rejected. The Ministry found itself unable to carry out its irreligious designs without an expression of opinion, such as was required in the passage of the proposed article, and therefore sought new legislation to suppress Catholic teaching in France. They have signally failed, but their determined attempt to "humiliate religion and violate liberty," will, we trust, open the eyes of French Catholics to the necessity of united and determined action at the polls to wrest power from the hands of the godless and unprincipled politicians who now rule France. The French Senate has done religion a

lasting service by sparing France the disgrace of again becoming an instrument of repression and tyranny towards the church. The action of M. Dufaure, M. Jules Simon, and other leading republicans, in opposing a measure devised solely in the interests of irreligion, demands the commendation and enlists the esteem of all friends of order. The threatened action of M. de Freycinet will be taken at its proper worth, that of an empty menace. An early resignation of the cabinet will not surprise us. But, who will succeed to the reins of power? The extreme radical wing may demand some consideration for past services and insist on its share of portfolios. But M. Gambetta, now enthroned in awful majesty as President of the Chamber of Deputies, will not permit the men he has used, to elevate himself, to acquire office and power. President Grevy will in such an emergency be in a difficult position, and may be forced, like his predecessors, to withdraw from office. The rejection of article seven may thus prove the means of accomplishing a great but peaceful revolution in French politics, a revolution in the interests of true liberty and social order.

#### THE PRESS AND THE PRIESTHOOD.

Recent events have shown Catholics how small a measure of justice and truth—or, rather, how large a measure of injustice and untruth—they may expect from the Protestant press of the country in any matter where the latter can, by any manner, drag down the name of a Catholic priest to infamy. The licentious scribes who do the work of editing, corresponding, and interviewing, all of whom, with very few exceptions, belong to some one or other of the secret societies so hostile to Catholicism—many of whom are devoid of education, but sustained by brazen-faced audacity—fairly gloat over any incident wherein they can in their own estimation connect the Catholic church with a clerical scandal. Such scandals are fortunately very rare in the Catholic church, but whenever they occur Catholics do not make heroes of the offending ones. The church deals summarily and severely with such offenders. Catholics deeply regret the human infirmities which generate such offences, but will not on any account intervene to prevent the ends of justice being reached in any such case. It is not, indeed, in cases wherein offences of a grave nature are established—and we are, we must say—and gladly do we say it—ignorant of any such offences being fastened on members of the Catholic clergy in this country—that Catholics complain of a display of vulgar fanaticism on the part of the infidel and Protestant press of the country. What we complain of is the desire so manifested of distorting the motives and misrepresenting the actions of Catholic priests even in cases wherein their influence for good is so much felt as to merit for them the lasting gratitude of all law-abiding members of society. The Catholic clergy have accomplished more in Canada in the interests of peace, order, and good will outside their actual spiritual ministrations, than all the magistrates and constables of the Province combined. Go to any place you will in the humble regions of Ontario and Quebec, where utter lawlessness prevailed despite all the efforts of the secular officials, and you will find all classes of citizens speak in terms of highest commendation of the influence of the Catholic clergy, very often justly and prudently exercised in the interests of peace and good order. When, in many instances, within our own recollection and knowledge, bloodshed involving lasting quarrels was thus avoided, peace was established by this same praiseworthy intervention, and that not a peace of a momentary character, but a peace which no further ebullition of angry feeling has been able to shake. In certain districts, also, where Orange and Green disturbances were so often a cause of anger and rioting, this same influence was at hand to restore harmony between the rival parties. How well it has succeeded we now know, by the fact that the Orange festivals now pass away almost with-

out a blow being struck, while formerly these same celebrations were fruitful causes of rancor and discord for weeks, and sometimes months every year. For all this the Catholic priesthood ask no public commendation from the press of the country. They ask for justice, they ask that none of their body be impugned as a criminal for discharging an undoubted public duty, and they sincerely trust that whenever any one amongst them be charged with a grave crime, the charge may not be made the occasion of covert sneers at a body to which the whole country owes so much in the preservation of order, the promotion of harmony, and the perpetuation of that good feeling so essential to true social happiness.

#### PIOUS BIGOTRY.

Rev. R. W. Wallace is engaged delivering a course of Sunday evening lectures to his congregation in this city. In the last lecture he related the following nice little item in regard to one of Martin Luther's hymns:—

"In 1529 some Romish priests were preaching at Lubek, and inveighing fiercely against the reformed doctrines, when two boys struck up one of Luther's hymns, 'O God from heaven now behold,' and the whole assembly joined as with one voice; and whenever the priest would return to the attack the congregation would answer him and drown his voice by singing another hymn. They were too much for the caustic preacher. And so I have come to God's house with a heart pained and disturbed by my week's reading, weakened, but as I have joined you in singing 'Nearer, my God to Thee,' I have found that the hymns were too much for my doubts, and these fled away before the song. And so Christianity is not imperilled while her music is full of Christ."

This may all be true, every word of it, but we are under the impression Martin must have written this hymn before he cast aside his monk's habit, for he certainly would not feel like singing, "O God from heaven, now behold," some of the saying and doings of his after life. If the Rev. Mr. Wallace's heart is pained and disturbed after a whole week's reading, there will not be much benefit derived from his singing "Nearer, my God to Thee," unless he exhibits a larger measure of charity towards his fellow-Christians, and avoids inculcating a spirit of bigotry among his congregation. But why was his heart pained and disturbed after his week's reading? Why, again, was his faith trembling and his arguments weakened? Well, it matters very little, at all events. We feel glad that the hymns were too much for his doubts. We hope the hymns will likewise prove too much for his bigotry, in the time to come.

#### SKIRMISHING.

A Toronto religious paper says that the unfortunate priest Father MacNamara, "is still guiding the movement in Boston, and addressed a large audience in the Music Hall." We are also told that he "called upon Irishmen to free themselves from the fetters of the Romish Church, and to establish a worship of God divorced from the priesthood and formulas of a Church controlled by an Italian Pope and priesthood." In the same column our cotemporary makes reference to quite a *Romish* revival expected to take place among very high churchmen in England. Now, why not advise Father MacNamara to go over to England and address the wealth and intelligence of that country, which is fast wending its way to "the formulas of a church controlled by an Italian Pope and priesthood." The little army engaged in fighting for the cause for which our friend offers up his fervent prayers, is busily engaged amongst a few unworthy stragglers from the Pope's camp, while the main forces of Protestantism are voluntarily surrendering themselves to that "church controlled by an Italian Pope," and on which the divine marks are so plainly visible.

CORRESPONDENTS should bear in mind that we cannot insert anonymous communications. The name of the writer must in all cases be given.

Our neighbors poses to give items every week. But never a complaint about the Catholic religious department. This month's Protestant budget week's budget of the falling priest in Baltimore took place so considered the religiousness is thought. Then we have MacNamara's course a religious per away off in a try and let us a list of your stantly embraced. We know it you might per account of events. And religious persons no need of going home—no need outside the house good little cover a large religious bigot and as much will allow—pride themselves Christians.

A Presbyter Toronto rec that to Ireland mainly due among the The Toronto paper, admitted to this which should lesson long to a remarkable this Irish qu the Presbyter and clerical, almost the brought religion. We are not Their system narrow, and attracted by the within which mitted to me that they a bute every countries to terianism.

An organ published in the same namesake, a the *Catholic*. We must justice of state cause of Ireland the First of into the North the lands out Scotch follow Undertakers, there in the statue which and the O'Donnells, the gallant p of Ulster, we Commemora, shout of "h how the foul James "plan in the North his Presbyter province of Catholics fr built and fertilized, that enriched Antrim or before a Pre the land to found in the manufacture to the rest of factory, and may use a James surr else in Ireland amongst his

In an int Montreal. conduct of the follow think the excellent assisted never money sent columns ar tions—in a my tool ar not come would have I th my heart, you, as the Canadian proper to its repres place in o you say at tion.