

had either priests or churches except here and in Conception Bay, and even these few, and only one dilapidated building in St. John's; but this Bishop Fleming, in a short time, increased the number of priests in the island fully six fold, and built some beautiful churches. He then looked about him, and petitioned for a piece of ground from the Crown for a Cathedral; and the piece he selected was perhaps the most valuable and extensive the Government had in possession; and although he met a most vigorous opposition, yet he was a persevering man and of great ability, and he never ceased to urge the Government until he succeeded; but as he had been four or five years passing to and from England upon the subject, I agree with him that he must have paid in expenses a pretty high purchase fee.

I am not one of those who wonder at the influence of the priests here and almost everywhere else, however I may regret it, because we in general find them virtuous, self-denying men, living only for their congregations, and without family cares to take off their attention from the interests of their people. You always find them, therefore mingling amongst the poor and the miserable; and where they are unable to give wholesome moral instruction, and often—as they are for the most part men of education—they steer the uneducated through the intricate mazes of temporal difficulties. But of all the priests I ever heard of, the influence of Bishop Fleming excels theirs. At his nod a whole population rush into the forests—a distance of some twelve or thirteen miles and bring £1,500 worth of timber for scaffolds for his cathedral; a word brings a second return for the construction of a convent; a beck and the immense foundations of his cathedral and of his convent are excavated, and the expression of a wish places the mercantile marine, as it were, at his command for the gratuitous conveyance of stone for his buildings some 100 or 120 miles; and when it is landed, no matter how valuable the time of the farmer, or the mechanic, or even the most respectable shopkeeper—the carts of the former are contributed, the labour of the latter in conveying the stone, when landed, to the building site. This strange influence over the public mind appears, too, to have a sufficient cause.

Former Popish bishops had contrived to make a good job of their places and realised a handsome fortune, and then retired to die in the old country. Priests had profited by the example of the bishops and did the same; and the poor papists themselves appeared to be excellent geese for plucking, although esteemed not worth feeding; but Fleming went on the other tack, cut the parish in two that had made fortunes for his predecessors, kept four curates where his predecessors had but one, renewed chapel gear that had been altogether omitted by those before him, spread chapels all over the island entirely neglected before, and out of his own dues built one of the prettiest chapels I ever saw at Petty Harbour, a little town near this; and

then the simplicity of his life is such, and his charity to the poor, that he is very generally loved. He joins in these works like a labouring man, and works as hard as any labourer. I must tell you an anecdote that will make you laugh.

I had been here about two days when my curiosity was excited to visit the Roman Catholic Cathedral building. I went alone, and found the work considerably advanced, the interior or main wall raised to, as it appeared to me, about thirty five feet, the exterior over the line of the windows. I fell into conversation with the overseer, and found him a man very little skilled in his trade. I met him at my approach, and as he wore a black vest and trousers, a grey coat, and a black chip hat, all pretty well bedaubed with mortar, &c, I judged at once his character, and his reply to my interrogatory showed I was right. He conducted me round the building, within and without; and shortly finding I was a Protestant, he took some trouble in explaining all the parts of the edifice—the ambulatory, the aisles, the vestibule, the sites of the altars, of the pulpits, &c. As for my part, I repaid his kindness and attention by giving my opinions with all the frankness of a Yankee; and fortunate enough it was that my opinions had been predisposed to be favourable from all I had heard, for the overseer no sooner left the ground, leaving me after him, than upon my asking one of the workmen his name, I was thunderstruck to find that it was no less a personage than Dr. Fleming himself.

I wish some of our clergymen would adopt this plan of devoting their undivided attention to the improvement of the condition of their flocks; but there are two things that will always keep us behind the Papists in that respect—first, the celibacy of the Popish clergy; and next, the connection of our Church with the State in England. These will always be a drag-chain upon the advancement of Protestantism, however attractive otherwise its doctrines. As I saw since my arrival here led me to make every inquiry, and I am bound in candour to admit that all the information I could obtain, and I scarcely had an opportunity of meeting any of the personal friends of Bishop Fleming, was calculated to raise him in my opinion, and to prompt me to say to the ministers of my creed, who should feel disposed to envy his extreme popularity, his unbounded influence—"Go and do thou likewise, and thou wilt obtain both."

I was not a little surprised to see this man, so plain—I had almost said so shabby—in his outward man; so, apparently, unostentatious and simple in his manners, air, and address, a few days afterwards dash past me in a beautiful barouche, drawn by two exquisitely formed black horses, there was certainly a staid dignity about the equipage rather seldom to be met with in British Colonies. The beauty of the carriage, the neat elegance of the harness, all corresponded so well with the jetty gloss of the pair of bloods, that you