

# THE MONTHLY ROSE.

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## LETTER TO THE RT. REV. DR. CONNOLLY.

St. Paul's Parsonage,  
Bridgewater, N. S., May 21, 1868.

RIGHT REV. SIR,—In an oration of yours lately delivered in Halifax, on the assassination of the lamented McGee, among other things you make the following statement:—

“Is it from secret societies, or mob orators, or a one sided and rabid press, or from politicians, who cannot presume to differ with them in opinion, that these stern and unyielding truths are to be learned? No! the Catholic religion teaches that it is only from that mouth that can never be gagged, that mouth that must speak out the whole truth of God, and all the great lessons of moral right and wrong can be infallibly ascertained. You may hear from that mouth right and wrong in science and politics, but whenever that science or these politics trench, as Fenianism and other secret societies do, on the sacred dominion of Religion, there you will find the teachings of the church infallible because Catholic—“that is always and ever more the same.” Now, far more than in ancient times, it is certain, in the words of Malachi the Prophet, (ii. 7.) that the lips of the priest shall keep wisdom, and the people shall seek the law from his mouth, because he is the angel of

the Lord of Hosts. They learn the whole of God's law from the mouth of the priest, not because he is very learned, or better informed, or an angel in purity or brightness, but an angel—that is a messenger—from God by office. In this, we are taught, consists the difference between Catholic priests and ministers of other churches. The whole supernatural value of the teachings of the Catholic priest is derived, not from himself, or his learning or ability, but solely and purely from his mission. This constitutes his only claim to be heard and to be obeyed by the people in all things spiritual, and at the risk of their salvation. Thus it is that there is not a priest in the Catholic Church who is not sent (as as we maintain) by God, as Paul and Barnabas, selected and ordained by the Apostles, were, nevertheless, sent by the Holy Ghost (Acts xiii. 4). Not a priest whose mission has not been received from a Catholic Bishop, and not a Bishop in the Church whose mission, like that of St. Paul and Barnabas, cannot be traced back from Bishop to Bishop, in unbroken succession to Peter and to Jesus, and so it is written, (Rom. x. 14.) “How shall they believe him of whom they have not heard, and