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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 patrons that the change of proprietorship will work no change in its one and principles; that it will remain, what 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."

LETTER FROM BISHOP CLEARY.

Bishop's Palace, Kingston, 13th Nov., 1882.

DEAR SIR:—I am happy to be asked for a word of commendation to the Rev. Clergy and faithful laity of my diocese in behalf of the CATHOLIC RECORD, published in London with the warm approval of His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Walsh. I am a subscriber to the Journal and am much pleased with its excellent literary and religious character. Its judicious selections from the best writers supply Catholic families with most useful and interesting matter for Sunday readings, and help the young to acquire a taste for pure literature.

I shall be pleased if my Rev. Clergy will countenance your mission for the diffusion of the RECORD among their congregations.

Yours faithfully,
†JAMES VINCENT CLEARY,
Bishop of Kingston.

MR. DONAT CROWE, Agent for the CATHOLIC RECORD

Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, SEPT. 7, 1883.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

The late wanton onslaught on France by the North German Gazette, which draws its inspiration from official sources, is indicative of the existence on the part of Bismarck of a fixed purpose to seize on the first opportunity of resorting to arms against France, with the view of completely disabling her and thus rendering her powerless as a rival of Germany. Another French war would, in the estimation of the wily chancellor, serve to draw public attention at home from the urgency of those reforms, which he persistently and unreasonably denies the German masses, and by inflicting another humiliation on French arms will relieve his country, at least for some years to come, from all uneasiness in respect of aggression or assault from France. The German people are far indeed from contentment. The last war with France was as severe a strain as their energies or means could bear. They are in urgent need of various important social and political reforms, without which they cannot rest content. The semblance of constitutional government which they enjoy has conferred but few, if any, lasting benefits on them. True, indeed, they elect their representatives to the imperial and national Chambers, but these representatives are not permitted to bring about administrative changes in accordance with the sound principles of constitutional government, as elsewhere understood and practiced. They may vote disapproval of government measures, they may censure ministers at will, but cannot, according to the vicious practices established in Germany, oust them from office. For nearly all practical purposes, then, the people might as well have no representatives in the various legislative bodies. Were these bodies blessed with the efficiency that should characterize every legislative assembly, many of those crying abuses, relics of feudal absolutism, which now afflict the masses of the population would have long since unceremoniously disappeared. But these abuses are linked, in the estimation of the chief supporters of the Bismarckian policy of despotism and exclusiveness, with the very existence of the monarchical and imperial system and are, therefore, fostered and preserved with the most jealous regard. Bismarck himself has a hearty contempt for the popular system of government. So long as the people are willing to be abused by him, or any other minister trusted by the sovereign, everything is well, but let the people presume to think for themselves, let them demand a voice in the disposition of the taxes they pay, let them claim that it is their right to know the policy and purposes of ministers, to disapprove of that policy and these purposes if they see fit, let them assert that it is not alone the confidence of the sovereign but primarily and necessarily the confidence of the people ministers must possess, and then the soul of the Chancellor grows wrath, then he loudly asserts the divine right of kings and proclaims the absolutism of ministers. Under the constitutional system everywhere best administered, ministers are indeed absolute enough, so much so in fact that royal intervention has at times to be recurred to, for the protection of private rights against their aggressive tendencies.

Regardless, however, as Bismarck may generally be of popular approval or disapproval, he has at times manifested a morbid desire of exciting the lowest prejudices of the populace in support of his policy. This he attempted to do in his inglorious war on the Catholic Church. This he now attempts by exciting the national animosity against the French. The menacing article in the North German Gazette has created a feeling of severe and general disapprobation throughout Europe. The Bismarckian organ accuses France of threatening the peace of the world, but is not that statesman who is ever seeking without reason some cause of quarrel the greatest disturber of the peace anywhere to be found? France is earnestly desirous of peace. Her weak and unhappy domestic policy unfits her for a severe or prolonged struggle, and so long as her statesmen persist in that short sighted and unfortunate policy just so long will France be helpless at the feet of Germany or any other aggressive or unscrupulous power.

For the good of Europe and the security of the world we hope that the French nation will soon rise from the dejection and weakness into which infidel legislators have led her. It is not in the interests of the European nations that Germany should be any more powerful than she is now. The humiliation of France in 1870-1 destroyed that equilibrium which continental statesmen had for more than a century declared it their purpose to maintain. Their declarations in this regard proved of little value when the armies of France were, thirteen years ago, swept from the battlefield, and the might of that great country laid low. So, we fear they would now prove, were France and Germany once more involved in war. France would have single-handed to face the colossal power of Germany. As yet she is unable to do so. But who can tell what the future has in store for a nation to which the world owes so much? Who can say but that in a few years the defeat of Sedan and the humiliation of Versailles will be wiped away? Who can say but that under Christian rulers France may not again be the foremost nation in the world, obliterating by a wise Christian policy the very memory of her present unfortunate disregard of religious and national obligations?

MOST REV. DR. CLEARY.

His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Cleary, Bishop of Kingston, has it, we believe, in contemplation to make an early visit to Ireland. It is now nearly three years since this devoted, learned, and truly amiable prelate took possession of his diocese amid the hearty rejoicings of clergy and people. Called to preside over the diocese of Kingston at a most critical and difficult period in her history, Dr. Cleary at once manifested those high qualities called for by the occasion and the position. During the short time he has been in Canada, he has won the esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. His mental acquirements, wholly devoid of every semblance of tinsel adornments, are of a character exalted and commanding. This combined with a manner truly gentle and gracious, gives Dr. Cleary the singular influence he possesses as a writer and speaker. As a sacred orator he stands indeed, in respect of splendid diction, imaginative power and argumentative strength, the peer of any in the Dominion of Canada. His labors in the diocese of Kingston have been constant and unremitting. Well, therefore, has he earned the brief repose he now purposes to seek in the land of his ancestors. His faithful flock will, we doubt not, follow him with best wishes and hearty hopes that he may return fully recuperated to resume his labors of love and apostolic devotedness in their midst.

A NEW ERA.

The completion of the North Pacific Railway from the head waters of Lake Superior to the shores of the Pacific ocean marks the opening of a new era in American railway progress. The new line traverses a country rich in timber, minerals and agricultural resources. It opens to immigration some of the most favored regions on the face of the earth and will, no doubt, add in an incalculable degree to American wealth and American population. To the vast majority even of Americans the belt of states and territories between Lake Superior and the Pacific is a veritably unknown land. It will now soon cease to be so. It will be from this time forward visited by the pleasure seeker and the fortune hunter, as well as by the patient, toiling, and expectant immigrant. Its plains, its hill sides and its valleys will, before the close of the century, become the home of a population as hardy, as thrifty and industrious, as any that owe allegiance to the American republic.

Its completion, it has been often said, would be coeval with the collapse of the Canadian Pacific Railway scheme. Not so, however. The Canadian Pacific traverses a country, to say the very least, nowise inferior to that just opened to the outside world by the Northern Pacific. It penetrates a vast region equally rich in mineral wealth, and more than equally blessed with agricultural resources of every description. British Columbia is, it is well known, one of the richest timber regions in the world, and will find ready markets in the east by means of both roads. The completion of two roads across the northern half of the continent will serve to prove to the outside world that it is not alone in these regions favored with a mild climate that America is rich, but that its great wheat growing plains away in the far North could never be relieved of their produce without the adequate means of communication provided by the Northern Pacific and Canadian Pacific roads. The construction of these lines is, to our mind, the beginning of a veritable new era for this continent by opening to the world the shortest routes from Northern Asia to Europe and offering to the overcrowded nations of the old world homes for their suffering and starving millions.

MARVELLOUS GROWTH.

The Ottawa Free Press, one of the most spirited and enterprising sheets published in this Province, has lately removed its place of publication to larger and more commodious premises. In fact its new publishing house may be fairly said to rival any establishment of the kind in the Dominion. We rejoice at our contemporary's success, as well on its own account, as because of its affording incontrovertible testimony to the solid growth of the Dominion capital. Our contemporary, reciting its own history, says that when the Free Press first appeared in the closing days of 1869, the journalistic field at Ottawa was occupied by two morning and one evening paper. Ottawa was not then, it adds, the pushing, progressive place it is today. "The Parliament and Departmental Buildings were unfinished and the surrounding grounds were rough from the hands of nature. All our present magnificent churches, except the Basilica, our splendid school houses, Dufferin bridge, the water works, the main sewer, the City Hall and the iron bridges at the Chaudiere were unbuilt. Only one railway, the St. Lawrence and Ottawa, gave access to the outside world. The Canada Central, now the Canadian Pacific, was still on paper, the North Shore and the Canada Atlantic undreamt of. A wing of the Rifle Brigade was quartered in the building now occupied by the Geological Museum. Miles of streets now lined with business houses and residences were then open fields. Partial as this retrospect is, it will give an idea of the marvellous growth of Ottawa in the short space of thirteen years." That growth has been indeed marvellous, and from the Catholic standpoint specially so. There are now in Ottawa nearly as many Catholics as there was of population altogether at the time our contemporary first saw life. There are in the capital five parish churches all built of stone, some of them in point of architectural merit and interior embellishment second to none in the Dominion. There are besides Catholic educational establishments, which, like the College of Ottawa, the convent of the Congregation de Notre Dame, and the Academy of Notre Dame du Sacre Cœur, accomplish a mission whose results are acknowledged and appreciated throughout the country. These institutions are but yet in their infancy, but their activity shows of what a hardy and vigorous growth is the Catholicity of the Ottawa Valley.

The growth of Catholicity in the city has hardly kept pace with its growth in the rural districts. The Catholic population of the diocese of Ottawa, from which the Vicariate Apostolic of Pontiac with 28,000 Catholics was lately cut off, exceeds by six thousand that of the whole diocese at the time of Bishop Duhamel's appointment nine years ago, when it was nearly 100,000. This is indeed a gratifying exhibit and must be a veritable source of congratulation to the entire Catholic population of Canada.

THE ARCHIEPISCOPAL SEE OF HALIFAX.

The great festival of the Assumption was for the Catholics of Halifax a day of special rejoicing. The Catholics of that beautiful metropolis have always been noted for a warm and hearty devotion to the Mother of God, which finds expression in their glad and fervent celebration of every festival set apart by our Holy Church in her honor. The festival of the Assumption has always been for them a day of earnest prayerfulness, hearty thanksgiving, and true Catholic rejoicing. This year especially was it so, for that day had been appointed for the conferring of the pallium on the Most Rev. Dr. O'Brien, their revered and cherished Archbishop. But a few months have elapsed since Dr. O'Brien's consecration and installation as Archbishop of Halifax. Suddenly called from pastoral labors in a quiet country district to one of the highest and most prominent, as well as responsible ecclesiastical position in the Dominion, Dr. O'Brien has during the brief period he has held the post, adorned by the virtues and talents of his illustrious predecessors, displayed a zeal and prudence and administrative tact together with an invariable kindliness of disposition that have won for him universal esteem and affection. Every one is now more than ever convinced that no better appointment could have been made to the See of Halifax than that of Dr. O'Brien.

The ceremony of his investiture with the pallium drew together one of the largest congregations ever assembled in Halifax. Bishop Rodgers, of Chatham, N. B., preached the sermon of the occasion with his accustomed eloquence and searching power of reasoning. Many were the prayers offered up and the hearty wishes formed for the long life and prosperity of His Grace the Archbishop. To their prayers and good wishes we desire to add ours which, however feeble, are hearty and sincere.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON.

Le Monde is responsible for the statement that Father James Joseph Carberry, of the Order of Friars Preachers, has been notified by the Propaganda of his appointment to the vacant See of Hamilton. Should the report of the appointment be confirmed, it will, we feel assured, be received with heartfelt pleasure not alone in Hamilton, but throughout the country. Father Carberry is not unknown in Canada. One of the most distinguished members of the venerable order of St. Dominic, he will be a welcome addition to the hierarchy of Canada. We bespeak for Father Carberry, in the event of his coming to Hamilton, a cordial greeting from the faithful clergy and devoted laity of that diocese as well as a happy and successful administrative career.

ANOTHER OPENING.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy, senior member for the City of Limerick, has been appointed to a government office, and has, thereby, vacated his seat in Parliament. For some time past he has not represented the views of his constituents, who will, therefore, feel a very natural satisfaction at his withdrawal from Parliament. The "city of the violated treaty" will now have the opportunity, it has no doubt long desired, of pronouncing on the important issues at present before the Irish nation. It will be remembered that Limerick was the first constituency which, on the inauguration of the Home Rule movement declared unanimously in favor of home government for Ireland. Since the death of Isaac Butt that historic city has not been creditably represented in Parliament, its present members having obtained seats by pledges they have not even made a decent attempt to fulfill.

We are glad that it is Limerick that will have the first opportunity of re-echoing in Munster the cry of triumphant determination first raised in Monaghan and then bravely caught up in Wexford and Sligo. We are glad of it, because there is no constituency in the South more keenly alive to the national wants or more thoroughly in accord with the national aspirations as the city of Limerick. No city in Ireland, with the single exception of Galway, suffers so much from the absence of home government as does this noble old town. Admirably situated to control a great trade, Limerick, with all its advantages, is forced to be content with a restricted local commerce and manufactories of the most limited character. With an Irish legislature Limerick might justly expect to become, with its unrivalled harbor facilities and its adaptability to meet the industrial wants of one of the most fertile and populous districts in Ireland, a very large and progressive city. We may, therefore, expect that the citizens of Limerick will gladly seize on the opportunity offered them to give emphatic endorsation to the verdict in favor of Irish self-government, so lately rendered by Monaghan, and so nobly emphasized by Wexford and Sligo.

THE OUTLOOK IN IRELAND.

The close of the session brings the Irish people face to face with the probability of a general election. The Gladstone administration, which entered office under auspises so very favorable, has been since its first session constantly losing prestige and support. The first minister, while in opposition, had promised, were his party once more entrusted with the responsibilities of office, to take the lead in domestic reform of a most important character. These proposed reforms included the concession of some system of home government to Ireland. With hearty satisfaction, therefore, did the people of Ireland hail the re-accession to office of Mr. Gladstone and his party. But no sooner were these latter placed in power, than a genius more evil than that which had governed Lord Beaconsfield's Irish administration entered into them. Ireland was in the throes of famine. But not only did the new government devise no relief for the famine-stricken Irish, but completely forgot the pledges made through its chief, of granting Ireland in some form the inestimable boon of self-government. Instead of measures relieving famine and restoring to the Irish nation, in a manner however limited, the exercise of their right of self-government, the administration had recourse to the old Tory alternatives of coercion and martial law.

Seized with an indignation as just as it was deep the Irish nation then repudiated the Gladstone government. Mr. Forster, who, by some unfortunate misconception of his powers, had been appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, at once began a war of extermination on the Irish leaders. There were state trials and when they failed, arbitrary arrests and lengthened imprisonment without even form of trial, all worthy the most despotic days of Oriental cruelty and the most savage tyranny. Representatives of the people were seized on and cast into prison for daring to address their constituents on the momentous issues of the crisis into which a short-sighted and narrow-minded minister had plunged Ireland; innocent men were torn from their families and likewise thrown into chains, because, forsooth, it was known that they loved their country and cherished its independence.

At length the government saw the necessity of removing Forster, whose name will ever be odious to the lovers of freedom and justice everywhere. He was replaced by Lord Frederick Cavendish, a large hearted and generous minded nobleman, cut off at the very beginning of what it was hoped, would be a brilliant and successful career in an office wherein no man has yet achieved brilliancy or success, cut off by the wretched victims of a secret conspiracy organized by men since taken into government pay. For the crime of these unfortunate men the Gladstone government evidently held the whole Irish nation responsible, and by appointing Mr. Trevelyan to the office of Irish Chief Secretary revived the very policy of vexation and tyranny condemned by the removal of Mr. Forster. In the discharge of his duties as leader of the Irish administration, Mr. Trevelyan has displayed the narrowness, bitterness and incapacity which so sadly and pre-eminently characterized his predecessor. His official career has therefore been cursed by failure and disappointment. Irish discontent remaining to day as living a factor as any time in the history of British misrule in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone has likewise been unfortunate in British domestic legislation. Urgent reforms called for by his most devoted supporters his government has failed to deal with, and the time of Parliament consequently wasted in ignoble struggles with a brave Irish minority or fruitless discussions with a united and determined conservative opposition on the weakness of the government at home and abroad.

In the bye-elections the government has sustained some severe reverses as well in Britain as in Ireland. In the latter country there has been a general uprising against the administration, of which Monaghan, Sligo and Wexford attest the intensity and unanimity in feeling. Were an appeal now made to the people little doubt there can be that the government would be ignominiously defeated. In Ireland the Nationalists expect, upon good grounds, to carry eighty or eighty-five seats. Mr. Parnell himself will, it is said, contest both the city of Dublin and the county of Down. He is likely to carry both seats and if so will probably sit for the latter constituency. The party of self-government will also, it is believed, carry all the seats in Munster, all in Connaught, all, with three or four exceptions, in Leinster, and besides redeem eight or ten in Ulster, thus securing an overwhelming majority of the Irish delegation.

At each of the last two general elections the Irish Nationalists secured nominal majorities, but these majorities rapidly melted away before the sunshine of ministerial favor. The Irish people have now clearly determined that after the next election the majority must be real, united and active.

We have already spoken of the urgency of providing remuneration for the faithful representatives of the Irish people in Parliament. It is but right that if a man serves his country faithfully, he should be remunerated for his services. There are but few men comparatively in Ireland, or for that matter in any other country, that can afford to give six or eight months of the year to public business to the total neglect of their own private affairs. It were a gross injustice to any man individually, not to speak at all of his family, to expect him to sacrifice his own limited means and lose so many opportunities of bettering his fortune by unremitting attention to Parliamentary duties during the greater part of the year.

We hope that before the next Parliamentary elections in Ireland, a fund to which Irishmen everywhere will be asked to contribute, will be organized for the payment of Irish members of Parliament. By that means an efficient Irish delegation to the British Commons will be ensured. Steps should also be taken to put candidates of popular politics early in the field. In this respect the Irish leaders can afford to take a leaf from the book of American politicians. On this side of the Atlantic it is not customary, though in some cases it happens, to place candidates in the field at the eleventh hour. Nominations are made weeks and months before the battle, so that the people have every opportunity of becoming acquainted with their future representatives. This is a custom which might be, we believe, profitably introduced into Ireland.

Mr. Parnell's determination not to visit America this year may be taken as an indication of his purpose to devote his whole time and energies to the struggle in which he is engaged. With skilful leadership the battle may be said to be won. Ireland never before exhibited on the eve of a great political struggle the same calmness and resolution that to-day guide her councils.

The Rt. Rev. Francis Kerril Amherst, D. D., a well-known Catholic prelate, and formerly Bishop of Northampton, is dead. He was born in London, March 21, 1819. He was educated at St. Mary's College, Oscott, where, after his ordination in 1846 he became a Professor. Afterwards he resided for some time in a Dominican monastery at Leicester, and in 1856 he was appointed missionary rector of the Church of St. Augustin at Stafford. He was consecrated Bishop of Northampton, in succession to the Rt. Rev. William Wareing, the first Bishop, July 4, 1858. He published "Lenten Thoughts, drawn from the Gospel for each day of Lent," in 1873.