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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1893.

Letter from the Archbishop.

To all whom it may concern, greeting:

It has been already announced that it is intended to publish in this city a new weekly Catholic journal, to be entitled *THE CATHOLIC REGISTER*, having as editor-in-chief the Rev. J. R. Teefy, B.A., Superior of St. Michael's College, who will be assisted by other able writers.

It will be the mission of *THE CATHOLIC REGISTER* to promote, according to its ability, Catholic interests, to vindicate Catholic rights—religious, educational and civil—and to defend the Church against the falsehoods and calumnies of which she is too frequently the object.

Whilst thoroughly loyal to the form of Government under which we live, and devoted to the welfare of our country, it will be perfectly independent of all political parties, and free to approve or condemn them according to their deserts.

It will labor to promote peace and good will amongst all classes of the community, but it will not cry "peace where there is no peace;" peace through the truth, through right and justice, it will aim at promoting to the best of its ability, in the conviction that charity, right reason, and the best interests of the country demand it.

Far from antagonizing or attempting to crowd out the Catholic papers already in the field, it will be happy to co-operate with them in the furtherance of the sacred cause they all have at heart; and if mayhap any rivalry should exist between them, it doubtless will be but the rivalry of striving to excel each other in conscientious, zealous and judicious labors in the noble vocation of Catholic journalism.

We bespeak for *THE CATHOLIC REGISTER* a generous and hearty support from the Catholic public; and we recommend it in a special manner to the patronage, encouragement and support of the Clergy and Laity of this Archdiocese.

† JOHN WALSH,
Archbishop of Toronto.

St. Michael's Palace, Toronto,
New Year's Day, 1893.

SALUTATORY.

It is with a certain fear, and yet, with much hope and confidence that we take our place amongst the Catholic weekly newspapers, and offer our salutations to our constituents. Our timidity arises from our own lack of ability and experience in journalistic work; our confidence springs from the purpose we have in view, the cause we espouse, and the friends who surround us and who have already shown themselves active and encouraging. The task of delivering our inaugural is rendered more easy and pleasant by the season at which we are opening the first volume of *THE CATHOLIC REGISTER*.

We therefore hasten, good reader, to offer to you our best wishes for a

very happy New Year, with the unwritten but heartfelt prayer that all blessings may descend upon you and yours from the Father of light and Giver of every good gift. As time advances our acquaintance, we trust, will increase; we trust also that we shall be a mutual support; and that you will kindly introduce us to your friends, in whose homes so we hope to find a hearty welcome.

With this brief but sincere New Year's greeting we proceed to give a history of the steps which led to our establishment, and to outline in general the policy by which we feel it our duty and honor to be guided.

The want of an earnest, thoroughly Catholic newspaper in Toronto, the metropolis of this energetic Province of Ontario, had long been felt by the leaders of our people. The venerable Archbishop felt the want of a reliable medium through which his opinions upon religious and other questions of interest would reach the wider bounds of a journal's circulation. The clergy felt this want. But the thoughtful of the laity felt it perhaps most of all; for the circumstances of their business surroundings exposed them to the first attack, to the severest trial, and the most trying danger. It was with the idea of taking steps to satisfy this want that a couple of gentlemen interested in the *Catholic Weekly Review* called upon his Grace and some of the priests of the city. Amongst other advice which they received, it was suggested that *The Irish Canadian* and the *Catholic Weekly Review*, then prosperous concerns, should be amalgamated, and that one Catholic journal should be started. *The Irish Canadian* was approached upon the subject; and with a most deserving spirit of sacrifice, our old and respected friend agreed to give up his identity of thirty years, and cast his lot with the plan suggested. Arbitrators were appointed, a valuation was agreed upon, and a joint stock company was started to take over the plant and holdings of both the above named journals, and to assume the issue of a new paper which was to be called *THE CATHOLIC REGISTER*.

We are a Catholic journal—Catholic first, last and always. This shapes our life and orders all our thought. From this standpoint we survey events; upon this ground we discuss questions, and to this fact we owe our being, our usefulness and our importance.

It brings us into closer relations with our co-religionists throughout the whole country, and it should not, and, as far as we are concerned, will not, alienate us from the rest of the community. To be more explicit: the fact that we are a Catholic journal will not by any means lessen the interest we take in the institutions, the growth and prosperity of our country. We are one with every patriot whatever be his creed, not in any destructive policy, but in the constructive policy of this young land—in safeguarding its institutions, in building up its future, in developing its energies, in fulfilling our duties and respecting the rights of all. For this work we join hands with every fair-minded man from Halifax to Van-

couver. We look for the same, for we are not strangers who came yesterday and who are leaving tomorrow. We do not purpose entering the ranks of party politics, but we do not purpose being silent when the interests of our religion or of its members are at stake; for we are not Helots whose sole right consists in being allowed to serve and pay taxes. We ask no favors; and we fear no wrong. The end we aim at is

"Our God's, our country's and truth's."

Upon this course we enter, not rashly or imprudently, but courageously and with all charity.

The functions and importance of a Catholic newspaper may best be treated by the following extracts from the greatest thinker this continent has yet seen, the late Dr. Brownson: "The press, taken in its largest sense, is, after speech—which it repeats, extends and perpetuates—the most powerful influence, whether for good or for evil, that man wields or can wield; and however great the evils which flow from its perversion, it could not be annihilated or its freedom suppressed without the loss of a still greater good, that is, restrained by the public authorities. In this country we have established the *regime* of liberty, and that regime, with its attendant good and evil, must be accepted in its principle and in all its logical consequences. If a free press becomes a fearful instrument for evil in the hands of the heedless or ill-disposed, it is no less an instrument for good in the hands of the enlightened, honest and capable. The free press in the modern world is needed to defend the right, to advance the true, to maintain order, morality, intelligence, civilization, and cannot be given up for the sake of escaping the evils which flow from it."

Again: "The press honestly conducted under a proper sense of responsibility, by men who are above the petty ambitions and petty jealousies of little men, by men who are up to the level of their position, and equally free from a tendency to false liberalism and from a slavish servility to routine, by men of generous culture, enlarged views, who understand their age and their religion, offers a medium for that sort of education and instruction of the people far superior to any hitherto possessed by the Catholic world. Through it the faithful may be taught the philosophy of their religion, learn its place and office in this world, its rights and relation to the various speculations and tendencies of the age—learn also true Catholic politics, and be stimulated and encouraged to the defence of Catholic interests. It cannot and ought not to supersede any of the old and established means and methods of instruction, for they have been instituted by our Lord Himself, but it may be ancillary to them, as philosophy is ancillary to theology."

By the fact that we are a Catholic newspaper, we are also brought into more direct relations with the head of the diocese. These relations may be briefly described as those of a dutiful son to a loved and respected father. Not to mention a bishop's authority, which will ever be to us the voice of

heaven; not to speak of the grace of his high and holy state, which will ever be to us light and strength, we owe very much to his Grace's zeal and fostering care. Gratitude, therefore, as well as a Catholic spirit, will always keep us in touch with the Archbishop, our reverend father in Christ. We hope to serve him, to strengthen his hands, to work under his suggestions, wish and advice for the most glorious cause that ever engaged the energies of man—the cause of the Catholic religion in this young country. His Grace has kindly written a letter of encouragement, which appears elsewhere, and which speaks for itself. But while we are anxious always to work in perfect harmony with the learned and venerable Archbishop, and while we have his *imprimatur*, our readers will bear in mind that he is personally accountable only for what appears above his own signature. For all else we assume the responsibility, confident in our own good will and desire to carry from beginning to end our love for, and obedience to episcopal authority and Catholic truth.

As one of our journalistic predecessors was especially devoted to Irish affairs, it may not be out of place to touch briefly upon our own position in this regard. We disclaim all desire to draw Irish politics into our domestic concerns; but our heart is large enough to sympathise most earnestly with our people—for they are our people in kinship and affection—in their struggle for Home Rule. We shall watch for our readers the deeply interesting events which the next few months will surely reveal; and with these events, and with Irish news in general, we shall give response to that noble sentiment which long-standing memories and old traditions preserve so well. If asked more definitely what stand we propose to take, we reply that we are followers of Justin McCarthy, as the Irish party is at present constituted, but hope most sincerely in that ultimate union which alone implies strength and promises success.

A word to the Catholic press of Canada, and we are done! As we have not entered upon our undertaking with selfish motives or with any desire to crowd others, we extend to our elder brethren of the craft the right hand of sincere friendship. To the *Catholic Record* of London we tender a special greeting; for he who by his encouragement started you upon your career of success and usefulness, is now giving us in another field the benefit of his authority and advice. Bound by a common origin, and having a common cause, we hope to work with you, your rival only in doing good.

A despatch appeared some days ago in various papers announcing that Dr. Snell, private secretary to Mgr. Keane of Washington University, did not believe in celibacy and had taken to himself a wife. It would have been wise and just, if the despatch had explained that Dr. Snell was not a priest but a simple layman; and was therefore free to enter the matrimonial state; the uncharitable imputation contained in the item would thereby have been taken out. The despatch went on to state that the Doctor was about to start a sect of his own. It may be: that is the way a great many of them have started. Why do not our separated brethren read the moral aright?