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LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.

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 aims 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, very sincerely,
Yours, JOHN WALSH,
Bishop of London.

MR. THOMAS COFFEY
Office of the "Catholic Record."
FROM HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP HANNAH.

St. Mary's, Halifax, Nov. 7, 1881.
I have had opportunities during the last two years or more of reading copies of the CATHOLIC RECORD, published in London, Ontario, and approved of by His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, the Bishop of that See. I beg to recommend that paper to all the faithful of this diocese.

+ MICHAEL HANNAH,
Archbishop of Halifax.

Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1882.

THE FIRST OF JULY.

On Saturday last the Dominion of Canada entered on the sixteenth year of its national existence. Fifteen years form a very brief period, indeed, in the history of a country, but in the history of Canada the fifteen years just closed form an epoch which, though brief, must be forever acknowledged as the most important in our history. On the first of July, 1867, the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick became united and incorporated into a federal dominion with a general government at Ottawa and a separate Provincial administration for all matters of local import and concern. The events which led to this consummation are well known to most of our readers. The legislative union established in 1841 between Upper and Lower Canada had, as the ablest English statesmen pointed out previous to its institution, proved a complete failure. The bringing together of two peoples of different language, race and religion, with laws, customs and institutions vastly diverse, and their attempted fusion at a time and under circumstances specially unfavorable, was an experiment that none but the strongest of governments could have undertaken or that could have been tolerated by any but a people vanquished and despirited. The legislative union had not been more than eight years in operation when the antipathies of prejudice actually led to bloodshed, in some places to anarchy, and almost led to a severance of the connection with Britain. During the next twelve or fifteen years, an agitation for increased representation in the legislature kept Upper Canada in constant ferment and led to very great bitterness. After the election of 1861 parties in Parliament became so very evenly balanced in strength that no government that could be formed by one or either seemed able to retain confidence. From 1862 to 1864 we had the Macdonald-Scott, Macdonald-Dorion, and Tache-Macdonald administrations, none of which possessed sufficient strength in the legislature to escape defeat. The people soon grew tired of this state of affairs, with their legislature turned into a meeting ground for factionists, to the banishment of honest deliberation and the detriment of public interest. This in the face of a large and increasing annual expenditure and a falling revenue, naturally gave rise to deep and general discontent amongst all classes of the people. The spring of 1864 opened as gloomily for the future of Canada as any that the country had ever seen, but fortunately there were amongst the representatives of the people on both sides of politics men ready to forget the bitterness and sink the minor differences of party for the purpose of promoting the country's good. Twenty three years' experience having demonstrated the failure of the legislative union to give the people of Canada good government, Canadian statesmen of both parties united on a scheme looking to the federation of all the

British North American colonies. It is not our purpose here to narrate the history of the confederation movement to which the eloquence of the lamented McGee lent such an impetus. Suffice it now to say that after three years of discussion, attended in some Provinces by agitation of an exciting nature, the scheme adopted at a conference of delegates from all the Provinces held at Quebec in October, 1864, was ratified by the legislatures of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and in the spring of 1867 with some slight modifications passed into law by an Imperial statute, known as the British America Act. The first Parliament of the Dominion met at Ottawa on the 6th of November, 1867, and on the 11th of December following, adopted resolutions in favor of the acquisition of the North West Territories, affirming *inter alia* that "it would promote the prosperity of the Canadian people and conduce to the advantage of the whole empire, if the Dominion of Canada, constituted under the provisions of the British North American Act of 1867, were extended westward to the shores of the Pacific Ocean." In pursuance of this action of Parliament, the Dominion Government at once took steps to secure for Canada the vast territories of the North West, which, after protracted negotiations, were, in 1870, finally made part and parcel of the Dominion. In the following year British Columbia cast in its lot with Canada, and in 1873 the Island of Prince Edward was admitted into the union. It is to be hoped that the time is not remote when the colony of Newfoundland will abandon its isolation and join the sisterhood of Provinces extending from ocean to ocean. The early completion of the Island railway will, in fact, bring Newfoundland and Canada into such close commercial intercourse and relationship as to render, in our estimation, the political union of the two countries a mere matter of time. Meanwhile we may say that the hardy islanders will, at any time they deem it their interest to join hands with us, receive from Canadians a right hearty welcome.

While the work of territorial extension has, during the fifteen years just closed, been prosecuted with vigor and success, the political, social and material advancement of the people has been very marked. Canada has made since 1867 gigantic strides in every walk of national life. The completion of the Intercolonial Railway has bound the Maritime Provinces to Quebec and Ontario, while the remote districts in these Provinces have been opened up and their resources brought to notice, and, at least, incipient development, by the construction of important links of road. The announcement made some days ago that on the 1st of July, 1882, the branch of the Canadian Pacific railway connecting Winnipeg with the waters of Lake Superior, would be opened for traffic, gave general satisfaction in Canada, for Canadians had long ardently desired an all-through Canadian route to their North West. A few years more will witness the completion of the entire Pacific route, and thus bring every Province from Vancouver to Newfoundland into ready communication. Then will the energies of Canadians from sea to sea be more closely concentrated on the development of Canadian wealth, the expansion of Canadian industry, and the consolidation of Canadian political strength. There is evidently in store for Canada a great future, but Canadians must not forget that the possession of material wealth and material happiness is not the main or essential constituent of true national greatness. That nation is alone great that is truly Christian. Canada can, with profit, in this regard take a leaf from the history of older countries that have suffered because of their oblivion of this truth. Upon our regard for it will largely depend the endurance of those institutions under which it is our happiness to live, and which it should be our glory to perpetuate.

Innocent fun is as good as any. The best medicine is not always bitter, nor is a thing wicked because it is agreeable.

REPRESSION.

The progress of the repression bill through Parliament has been met with by so stern and constant a resistance on the part of the Irish party, that recourse has been had to depriving them of freedom of speech. In the course of the debate on the night of Friday, and the morning of Saturday last, nearly every Irish member who took part in the discussion or in the subsequent divisions was named suspended and forced to leave the house. A proceeding more tyrannical and unjustifiable never disgraced a public body. True, the Irish members employed every form known to Parliamentary procedure to stay the progress of the measure under discussion. This measure, the most fiercely coercive that has ever engaged the attention of even the British Parliament, aims at nothing less than the complete annihilation of every liberty essential to citizenship, and the establishment of military absolutism in its very worst forms. Trial by jury, freedom of the press, the right of meeting and domestic independence are all at once fell blow abolished by this infamous measure. We term it infamous, even as compared with others of the most radical coercive acts passed into law by the British Parliament; infamous, as invading every right of citizenship, private and public; infamous, as tending to civil strife and commotion; infamous, as subversive of freedom and the advancement of the people; infamous, in a word, in the light of reason, justice and humanity. By the despotic conduct of the presiding officer in the Commons on Friday and Saturday last, and the tyrannical majority that supported him, Mr. Parnell has achieved a great moral victory. Sir Stafford Northcote may indeed breathe vengeance on Ireland and declare the Egyptian crisis of more moment than that of the Irish. But in this he states what he believes not. And he must understand, as he will certainly be made to understand it, if for the moment the fury of prejudice and hate blind him that the Irish question is not to be disposed of as are the affairs of a semi-barbarous nation. If the repression bill become law, as it now appears certain it will, the British Parliament will have finally declared its incompetence to rule Ireland, and will, by an intelligent posterity, English and Irish, be held responsible for the evils that must follow from the despotism evinced by such outrages on representative freedom as that perpetrated in the dying hours of the week gone by.

THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The Egyptian crisis yet continues to absorb universal attention. Little if anything definite has yet been done to arrive at a settlement of the difficulty which certainly now preoccupies the mind of diplomatic Europe. Arabi Bey is as yet master of the situation in Egypt, the Khedive exercising but nominal control over the country. Arabi is either scheming in furtherance of a design of his own to assume sovereign jurisdiction over the Egyptian people, or is acting in the interest of the Port as against the *quasi* independence of the Khedive. In either case his course of action deserves attention, for the attention that is given to it. He has succeeded in arousing the very worst passions of the Moslems of Egypt, who would, no doubt, in any general movement against European intervention, be joined by large bodies of their co-religionists elsewhere. Even were Arabi's intention confined to the establishment on a firmer basis of the Sultan's sovereignty in Egypt, it would be none the less the right and duty of European nations with important interests in Egypt to conserve to intervene for the protection of these interests. Any new extension of Sultan's authority in Egypt will not and cannot be a guarantee that the government of the country will be any the better for it, the rights of foreigners respected or the Suez Canal freed from danger. It now looks as if British public opinion, irritated by the recent outrages in Alexandria, would force the Government to take decisive action for the protection of British interests, no matter what conclusion the Conference may arrive at. We must say that conferences are, as far as we know anything of them, generally sterile in results, and do not, on that account, look with great confidence to the approaching meeting of diplomatists at Constantinople for a practical solution of the Egyptian difficulty.

LOOKING TO WASHINGTON.

Already are our American neighbors busy in preparation for the congressional and gubernatorial elections to take place next fall. The contest will evidently be very severe, with chances in favor of the republicans in the smaller states, but against them in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. Pennsylvania and Ohio have of late years generally elected republican state officers and a majority of congressmen. New York and Indiana have been much more closely contested with slight odds in favor of the democrats. There ought to be no difficulty with good management for that party to carry these states this year, and also, on account of their present peculiar situation, both Pennsylvania and Ohio. But the democrats are not often blessed with good management. More than half their defeats may be traced to the selection of weak candidates and lack of effective organization. This year the committee appointed by them to control the congressional campaign is, it appears, weak in composition and devoid of constructive power and administrative efficiency. Such a body will, instead of promoting success, seriously impede if not prevent it. In times such as the present, where general prosperity makes the ordinary citizen apathetic, as regards political contests, nothing but the closest organization can achieve a decided success. President Arthur's administration has not thus far so favorably impressed the public at large that the democrats have much to fear from anything but their own internal dissensions and lack of organization. They may, however, notwithstanding present indications, present before November so solid a front as to acquire control of the four great states we have named, an eventuality that would give good hope of a democratic success in the Presidential campaign of 1884.

On the fourth of March next, one third of the Senate will retire. The composition of the new Senate is thus prognosticated by the American: So far as the Senate is concerned, the prospect is already made definite enough by the success of the Republicans in carrying a majority of the Legislature of Oregon, at the recent election in that State. This gives them a lift of an extremely important character, as it insures them a Senator in place of Mr. Grover, Democrat, and so balances their loss in Louisiana, where Mr. Kellogg retires in favor of Mr. Gibson, Democrat. Presuming that no other political changes take place, it would give them thirty-seven members of the Senate, as against thirty-seven Democrats and two Readjusters. In point of fact, however, they are safely certain to choose a successor to Judge Davis in Illinois, and fairly likely to gain another seat, in New Jersey, in the place now occupied by Mr. McPherson. This would make them thirty-nine Senators, and leave but thirty-five Democrats, not counting Mr. Mahone and his lieutenant, Mr. Riddleberger. At the same time, there are two more Democratic seats which now appear insecure, those of Mr. Saulsbury of Delaware, and Mr. Harris of Tennessee. Delaware, we should now say, is more likely to send a Republican to the new Senate than a Democrat, though whether she will make an improvement on Mr. Saulsbury—partisan as he is,—is rather more uncertain.

Of the Republican seats to become vacant, none seem in danger. In Maine, Mr. Frye's term runs out; in Colorado, Mr. Teller's; in Iowa, Mr. McMillan's; in Kansas, Mr. Plumb's; in Massachusetts, Mr. Hoar's; in Michigan, Mr. Ferry's; in Minnesota, Mr. Windom's; in Nebraska, Mr. Saunders's; in New Hampshire, Mr. Rollins's; and in Rhode Island, Mr. Anthony's. All these, it will be seen, are quite safe and sure Republican States,—nearly all copperfastened in their party allegiance, Maine and New Hampshire may be called debatable ground, perhaps, but not really doubtful. Two elections, in fact, have already taken place,—Mr. Wilson has been chosen from Iowa, and Mr. Anthony re-elected in Rhode Island. Looking at the field calmly, it must be said that the Republicans are already assured of a control, by a small majority, of the next Senate, without being tempted to bargain with General Mahone for the peddling of "patronage" in the State of Virginia.

In regard of the popular chamber there is, of course, a great diversity of opinion. But the current of events points to a Democratic ma-

jority in the House of Representatives. The American, while decidedly republican in its sympathies itself admits the probability of a Democratic House.

If, then, the balance of probabilities is to be taken, it may indicate a small Democratic majority in the next House of Representatives. The present House is substantially a tie; the Republicans were barely able to organize it. For the next, possible gains in the South are offset by probable losses in the North; and these latter are apparently greater in extent. We are probably, then, to see a divided Congress, with the present Executive. It will be the situation of the last two years of General Grant's Administration repeated, with the difference that the Senate will be less decidedly Republican and the House less decidedly Democratic.

The Republicans hope for some solid congressional gains in the South. We cannot see where these gains are to come from. The seats they now hold in the South are by no means of certain tenure. Some of them have been acquired through the decision of partisan committees, a fact that will certainly not add to the popularity of their possessors. There have indeed been frauds at congressional elections in the South but not more on the democratic than the republican side, while no fraud ever yet perpetrated by the Democrats can stand comparison with the gigantic republican fraud of 1876, which deprived the democratic presidential candidate of the votes of Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina. Canadians will all join with the American in the hope it expresses of an improvement in the composition of the next congress. That hope it expresses in trenchant terms:

To the future Congress, however, we may at least look with the expectation of an improvement in the character of its membership. We may hope for more of independence and courage upon questions of principle. We may anticipate, surely, that the delegation from a great State will not form in line, at the word from a Senatorial master, to make a Speaker or a tariff commission, regardless both of previous engagements and considerations of fitness. We may hope for Congressmen who will be able to consider the great subject of taxation, revenue and surplus upon its scientific and economic merits, and not simply by the light of log-rolling schemes to build unneeded court-houses, post-offices and custom-houses, as a means of securing a re-election, and with the consequence of wasting the public funds. There is abundant room for improvement; and, whatever may be the party division of the next House, it will be the duty of the people, in making their nominations and elections, to see that the standard of character, capacity and fitness is raised. In such a time of quiet, it is as easy as it is proper to measure candidates carefully and to choose no Representative who is undeserving. Let us at least make the next Congress, whatever its politics, more capable of doing the work of the nation than its predecessor.

The coming Congressional campaign will, according to present indications, be devoid of much of the acerbity and overdone enthusiasm characteristic of American elections. The passions raised by the late war and the reconstruction policy of the Northern republicans have lost their hold on the people. Henceforth, therefore, we may expect to see a very cheering improvement in the tone of American political discussions and in the result of party conflict.

THE ELECTIONS.

The Dominion elections, which took place at the close of last month, resulted in a decisive victory for the government. Elections have not yet been held in all the Provinces, but enough is known to indicate that the majority for the government will be about 70 or 75. According to the most reliable returns the new House, as far as elected, will stand as follows:

	Min.	Opp.
Ontario.....	52	40
Quebec.....	53	12
New Brunswick.....	8	8
Nova Scotia.....	15	6
Prince Edward Island.....	2	4

130 70

The returns from Manitoba and British Columbia will, no doubt, increase the majority. Local elections were also held in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where, from the most reliable returns, the existing

Provincial Administrations suffered defeat.

SS. PETER AND PAUL.

The great festival of SS. Peter and Paul, of which the church yesterday celebrated the octave, is ever suggestive of the trials and triumphs of the early church. The annual recurrence of this solemnity brings to mind heroism and self-sacrifice, outcome of love of God unknown to ancient poets and too rare in modern times. The two great apostles who fell victims in the first fiery and furious onset of satanic hatred against the divine truths which they preached, were truly men of God. Their natural qualities were indeed great and meritorious, but these natural qualities, however great and meritorious, if not informed and elevated by the grace of the Holy Spirit, though they abandoned all to follow and to preach Christ crucified, could have given them but very little of usefulness and likely nothing of renown. It was not, indeed, for earthly renown they strove. Their work was for a reward higher than earth then dreamt of. What must have been the heroism of these illustrious Apostles in confronting the colossal power of the Roman empire, with gilded paganism enthroned on high, menacing with destruction any who dared question its sway? They came not with wealth or honor, or civil or military achievement to commend their mission. They came of a race even then despised and hated the world over, to overcome the culture, the learning, and the luxury of Rome. How they succeeded is well known.

The altars and statues of paganism fell before the all-encompassing zeal of the apostles and their successors. The blood of Peter and Paul and that of their numberless adherents from the days of the infamous Nero to those of the blood stained Diocletian, proved in truth and deed the seed of saints, and the soil empowered and consecrated by that blood, became, in due time, the possession of the children of God. For centuries it so remained, but when defeated in one struggle, Satan commenced a preparation for another. That struggle begun three centuries ago, yet continues with unabated fury. A modern paganism has taken the place of the ancient; it has the same gods, human passions; the same sacrifice, gratification of passions. We have, as of old, Cæsars who decree persecution and seek even to crucify the living Peter of to-day, the Roman Pontiff. But though their decrees be carried out and their desires for the moment realized, the victory will be with Peter. If his followers in these, our own days, wish to see his triumph, they must be faithful to the teachings of which he is the infallible preceptor. Reflection on the lives and glorious deaths of the apostles cannot but prove an incentive to energy and fidelity on their part. In no lives, and, indeed, in no deaths, are so fully illustrated the heroism of Apostolic zeal as in those of SS. Peter and Paul. Throughout the world has gone forth their renown, and to its very ends has been felt the power of their words.

THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

The Orange Grand Lodge of Canada recently closed its labors at Sherbrooke, P. Q. Amongst other resolutions adopted by this body was one instructing the proper officers to apply to the Dominion Legislature for an act of incorporation for the grand lodge of British America. We are not, as yet, aware that these officers intend to act upon the resolution of the lodge. But whatever their intention, we deem it our duty at once to state very plainly that the Catholic people of Canada will resist to the very utmost any attempt to procure from the Parliament of Canada an act of incorporation for a body so entirely un-Canadian in its attitude and so unchristian in its history and professions as the Orange Association.

The haunts of Happiness are varied and rather unaccountable; but you will often see her among little children, home firesides, and country houses than anywhere else.