

Feby. 26, 1897.

My dear Solicitor-General,—

I saw His Grace this morning and showed him the message received from Rome. He was not favourable to a Delegate being sent from Rome, and had some time ago assigned his reasons to the Propaganda for his views, namely: That the very fact of an emissary being sent from the Pope to interfere in a matter which was partly political would create much feeling and there would be denunciations from the press and the ultra-protestants against such interference as to being ruled from Rome, &c., &c. Another reason which influenced him was the fear that a Delegate might be sent from Rome or France who being prepossessed—as all Continental Ecclesiastics are—with the idea that Liberalism in politics is everywhere the same—synonymous with infidelity—and being so prepossessed it would be difficult to eradicate the idea from the mind of such an one that Liberalism here bore no relation to what is known by that name on the Continent. Besides, as the Delegate would have such close intercourse and be in such constant communication with the Bishops in Quebec, they might strengthen him in his preconceived ideas.

Had His Grace known the Government was anxious for the intervention of a Delegate, he would have asked me to write and say that you should have been in a position to suggest the name of a suitable person conversant with both languages; and he hopes the Delegate named is known to Cardinal Vaughan and that the latter will see him on his way to Canada.

The Archbishop has a very high opinion of the Delegate to the United States, who was educated by the Irish Augustinians at Rome and is therefore imbued with ideas wholly different from those who have an exclusively Italian education. He is thoroughly conversant with the English language, and speaks it fluently—a man of great individuality of character and strong common sense.

The Archbishop will do all he can when the Delegate arrives to have the compromise carried into effect. He considers in view of Blake's opinion that that is the better course to adopt.

You heard of course of the speech he made at the convention of the Bishops in Montreal—to which he went at my earnest solicitation—the