



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. II.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1851.

NO. 4.

LETTER OF THE REV. DR. CAHILL.—No. V.
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Londonderry Catholic Seminary,
August 6, 1851.

Beloved Fellow-Countrymen,—Alas! I am now sitting in the room in which the illustrious and ever-to-be-lamented Bishop of Derry, Doctor Maginn, breathed his last breath. Alas! alas! this model Prelate and patriot has fallen in the ranks, combatting with courage and triumphant distinction the enemies of his creed and his country, and at a time when his sorrowing countrymen most needed his services in the coming struggle. To a heart and a hand of charity, wide as the blue vault of day, he united a mind lofty as the topmost point of his elevated station; and although his character amongst the clergy, who adored him, was playful as a child, and calm and cheerful as the soft zephyr on the streamlet, yet, when roused by the grievances of his country, or by the insults of the enemies of religion, he arose at once into the formidable strength and attitude of the giant, and his honest indignation swelled into the restless fury of the tempest. Religion mourned his loss, literature and patriotism have received a deep wound in his death, and weeping Ireland, like a bereaved mother, sits disconsolate over the early tomb of her own favorite child. Dr. Doyle, O'Connell, and Dr. Maginn, were the three brightest stars that rose on our horizon in the beginning of the present century, to direct and preside over the destinies of our unhappy country. One after the other they have sunk and set, covering the nation with mourning, and leaving a thick darkness behind to overcast our national prospects.

I promised in my last letter to you to give a more detailed account of the diplomatic conduct of Lord Palmerston during the last five years; but, alas! there is little advantage to be derived by unfortunate Ireland, in her present fallen condition, from exposing the iniquity and the bigotry of the English cabinet on the continent of Europe. We are just now too weak, and England is too strong to feel any alarm at my manifestations of our displeasure: on the contrary, her cruel persecution is redoubled as our national woes are increased; and she answers our demand for justice, and our cries for bread, with a ferocious shout of triumph, which is sufficient to madden the heart of the living, and to awake the revenge of the dead. Ireland, like a foundered ship, is seen struggling in the overwhelming waves; and, at the moment when she holds out her signal for relief, England sails by under full canvass, and, with a cruel Saxon cheer, wishes her a safe journey to the bottom. But if Ireland will be patient and prudent, and if we will be (for once in our history) true to ourselves, and united as one man, we shall yet compel cruel England to retrace her steps and to bend her proud neck in national degradation. One million of men joined together in a constitutional legal combination, can pronounce a will which has never yet been refused by any power of past history; and depend upon it the time is not far distant, when one million constitutional voices will wrest our just rights from the submissive consent of the British parliament.

I shall now proceed to lay before you certain diplomatic documents, which will place on record an amount of deceit (in reference to England) which has no parallel in modern history, which is well known in all the cabinets of Europe, and which proves, by a palpable demonstration, what I asserted in the first letter I addressed to you—namely, that England directly encouraged and fomented all the late revolutions on the continent of Europe, and employed her entire diplomatic influence in an attempt to oppose, or weaken, or uproot Catholicity during this revolutionary progress.

Firstly, then, Lord Palmerston refused to join France, Austria, and Prussia, in maintaining the cantonal independence of the Sonderbund; his policy was to join the free corps, and thus encourage a civil war in Switzerland. If he had joined the four European powers in their demand on the Diet, all hostilities should cease, and the cry to expel the Jesuits would be silenced; but no, Lord Palmerston, on the contrary, exerted his last effort in order to support the Radical movement, to crush the independence of the Sonderbund, and to expel the Jesuits!

Mr. Howard, the English Ambassador at Berlin, writes as follows to Lord Palmerston, the 6th September, 1847:—"I have had a conference of two hours with Baron de Conitz (the Prussian minister.) I informed him of the proposition which you had made to Prince Metternich (the Austrian minister,) viz., to use his influence to break up the alliance of Sonderbund, even on the defensive. He replied that he could not avoid entertaining deep suspicions against the honesty of this demand, as it would destroy the first principle which the five powers guaranteed to maintain, viz., the individual

cantonal independence of the Sonderbund. He gave it as his opinion that Prussia could not consent to such a proposition. I then informed him that your lordship expected that Prussia would use her influence in conjunction with Austria and France, to exact from the Pope the expulsion of the Jesuits from Switzerland. The baron replied, that he could not consent to this proposition, without an infraction of the sixth article of the federal compact; and as to the Jesuits, he said he thought the expulsion of the Jesuits was a mere pretext to create hostilities; and he also informed me that Prince Metternich would not join you in any proposition in reference to the expulsion of the Jesuits. I must, at the same time, tell you that the baron has no partiality for the Jesuits."

You see, therefore, that it was the united opinion of Prussia, Austria, and France, that, in the first place, England was encouraging rebellion and national injustice, in violation of the sixth article of the federal compact; and, secondly, it is proved beyond contradiction that Lord Palmerston is guilty of the clear, decided effort of forming a conspiracy with the European cabinets of expelling the Jesuits from Switzerland. There were at that time in the country one hundred and fifty Swiss Jesuits—that is, born in Switzerland—and here is a Whig English minister (without attempting to bring any charge of any kind against the Swiss gentlemen and Clergymen) endeavoring to force four European cabinets into the decided conspiracy of expelling the natives of Switzerland from their homes and their country, without the shadow of an offence. This Whig minister first excites the Radical mob against the Catholic Church, and then, forsooth, in order to quiet the public mind, he demands the expulsion of the Clergy. Now can there be any man in Ireland, who does not see at one glance this very same scene enacted by Lord John Russell in England? He first inflames the mob by his letter, and then he demands the annihilation of the Catholic Church in England and in Ireland, in order to calm the storm which he had himself excited! This conduct of Russell and Palmerston is so strikingly alike in all its details that I think there are few who will not recognise the exact similitude of the Swiss and the English conspirators.

But hear Mr. Peel on this subject, who writes to Lord Palmerston on the 23d September, 1847:—"It is certain that we can obtain a majority in order to carry out our views. The cantons which have voted the dissolution of the Sonderbund, and who doubt the pernicious effects of the Jesuits, will refuse to go to war; but Berne, Vaud, and Tessin are for energy and dispatch. Therefore, my lord, it is my opinion, that Lord Minto should forthwith proceed to Rome; he can obtain from the Vatican a Bull for the suppression of the Jesuits: this is the principal point."

It is in the recollection of every reading man in Ireland, that during the late misunderstanding with Greece, Lord Palmerston was accused of provoking the anger of foreign powers, and creating revolutions in several countries by an overbearing diplomatic conduct; the case of the revolution of Rome was instanced; and Lord Palmerston, in his reply, in his place in parliament, distinctly said that the Pope (through his Nuncio at Paris) had applied to England for an able diplomatist to aid him in his councils; and that he, Lord Palmerston, sent Lord Minto to Rome in consequence. Now here is a direct contradiction given to this statement of the Whig lord by his envoy at Berne, and clearly proving his lordship to have uttered in the British senate the thing that decidedly was not true!

The result of this dispatch was the notorious mission of the notorious Lord Minto to Rome. He arrived in Rome on the 28th October, 1847; and, on the 13th of November, he sent the following despatch to Lord Palmerston:—"I have found an able assistant [in succours efficacy] in Count Rossi: I have had already several interviews with the Cardinal Secretary of State on the subject of the expulsion of the Jesuits. I think I have nearly succeeded in making him use the Pope's authority on this point. I did not wish to take on myself the guarantee that their expulsion would still satisfy the Swiss Diet. And in future, I shall confine my demand to the one point, and always presenting the idea of an inevitable war." After this dispatch, can there be any further doubt that, when Palmerston could not succeed in forming a cabinet conspiracy with the four European powers, he then sent Minto to Rome to carry out his deadly hostility to Catholicity by intrigue at the Roman court?

The Cardinal Secretary, however, was not so pliant as Minto had at first supposed; and the disappointment had such an effect on Minto that he suddenly changed his bearing towards the Cardinal, and openly became the friend and the companion of all the revolutionists at Rome. The success of the free corps

over the ill-fated Sonderbund became decided in the end of November; and on the night of the 3rd of December, 1847, the triumph was celebrated in Rome with a savage joy which baffles all description. The entire city presented something like the appearance of Mount Vesuvius previous to an earthquake. The revolutionists and the cut-throats from every part of the world met in large bodies; cries of "long live the Protestants," (vivent les Protestants) were echoed and re-echoed through all the lanes and alleys of Rome; bands of men, more like demons than human beings, paraded the street where Lord Minto had taken up his residence; and it became evident that the revolutionists had met to celebrate the presence of some great powerful ally, and to mark the occasion by every demonstration of insane and tumultuous joy. Rome soon learned that Minto was the man—that Minto was the friend of the Radicals—the flatterer of the Pope—the father-in-law of Lord John Russell—and the deadly, the silent, the insatiable enemy of the Jesuits. And Lord Minto did not leave the Radicals long in doubt of his character in Rome; his hat was always gracefully lowered before the salute of a Swiss, or a Neapolitan, or a Roman Radical—he bowed to Mazzini, smiled upon Garibaldi, and almost courted to Cicerouacchio—his walks were almost crowded with the whiskered devils and infidel moustachios of the world—his door was beset from morning till night with the known enemies of the Pope, and he was far and away better known as the advocate of revolution throughout Europe, than as the minister of England. Cicerouacchio, a common hay and straw grocer in Rome, (a known enemy of the Pope) was his daily companion. He had portraits taken of the grocer, and busts executed of the grocer's son. Young Cicero had rings, and chains, and cameos, and brooches, and cigar cases, and fal dals, to the surprise of the city—all marked with the crest of the English minister. And this is the man who was sent to Italy to quell revolution—this is the man (the father-in-law of Lord John Russell) who waited on the Pope to decide the case of the Jesuits—this is the man (the servant of Palmerston and the relative of Russell) who came to aid the Pope by his counsel and to tranquilise Europe! Oh, English perfidy!

The history of Europe can tell the result. Switzerland, Italy, Lombardy, Austria, and all Germany, were shaken to their centre; the discontent, the rebellion, the Red Republicanism, the thirst for spoliation, the infidelity, the sanguinary revolution which was confined within the restraints of law and order since the year 1815, all, all boiled over; and pouring like a molten torrent of lava over the face of Europe, would have reduced all civilisation to a frightful spectacle of universal ruin, if the friends of order had not stood forth through all the countries to stem the devastating progress of this most terrific inundation. But thanks to the watchful and benign Providence of Heaven, those enemies of God and man have been defeated, and revolution has received a check which it cannot recover. The character of England in this European tragedy is too well known in every cabinet of Europe to need any comment from me. She has added fifty-two millions of money to the field of her commerce, filched and extracted from the weakness of her neighbors; and she has been enabled at the same time, to strike a deadly blow at the Catholic Church, which has disabled her for the moment; and thus England has added a new paragraph to her national blood-stained history, which, during the last three hundred years, has, indeed, but one page all over the world, expressed in the three words of national perfidy, national spoliation, and national persecution.

And in order to show that my authorities (in the case which I have proved) are not all taken from the aggrieved cabinets, I shall quote on the subject a private letter, written by the correspondent of the Times, and transmitted to that journal, June 4th, 1850:—"I have now been more than two years in Italy; and I was present in every revolution which has taken place; and I must declare, with the exception of Piedmont, where Mr. Abercrombie was instructed to give Charles Albert sound advice against the invasion of Lombardy, in no one place would the insurgents have gained the strength they did, if the leaders had not confidence in the sympathy of the British government. The acts of some of the British agents were as notorious as the noon sun; and I hear that several of them now are claimants for compensation for acts which they themselves directly or indirectly excited." On this last extract I shall not utter one word, as the quarter from which it proceeds, and the decided authority with which it speaks, is a judgment which brands Lord Palmerston and his colleagues with the clear guilt with which I charged them in my first letter to you.

Beloved fellow-countrymen—I have now discharged a duty which I owed to my creed and my country,

by exposing the most iniquitous conspiracy known in the records of any nation. I have now fulfilled my word, and I have redeemed my pledge to you, by branding the English cabinet with an attempt to revolutionise Europe, and to crush the Catholic Church. Since I commenced these letters to you, on the 23d of last December, I have had communications from almost every kingdom of the known world, where the name of England is heard and abhorred; men of all ranks have supplied me with documents proving the deceit, the bigotry, the perfidy, the dishonor, and the tyranny of England. I hold some documents from Spain which will yet surprise you, whenever I may find it necessary to publish them. English iniquity has surpassed itself in Spain and Portugal by changing the succession to the throne, abrogating the ancient laws of these fine countries, and introducing palpable infidelity, and open resistance to the authority of the Pope. Scenes of plunder and spoliation were enacted in these countries in the years 1833 and 1834, which make the blood freeze; and the reader of this letter can best comprehend the thrilling persecution of the Catholic Church in Spain, when he learns that out of forty-eight thousand Nuns and Friars who, relying on the security of the law, retired into seclusion—all—all, have been forcibly expelled from their monastic homes, driven by the bayonet from the legal possession of their just property and national rights, and by the assistance of England starved and murdered by the iniquity of the law. I shall yet expose this English conspiracy, and I am kept at this moment from fulfilling this duty, which I owe to truth and justice, at the earnest request of a distinguished individual, who has asked it as a favor to postpone this disclosure to some more favorable and expedient opportunity.

I shall, therefore, conclude my present series of letters on the subject of the European despatches, and although I am not so foolish as to hope I can effect any change in the future character of England, I do sincerely believe I may produce some salutary alteration in the future character of Ireland.

There are two points on which the Irish mind must be decided—firstly, that Russell had been the head of the ministry which, since 1846, has been laboring to overthrow Catholicity in Europe; and, hence the far-famed Durham letter has been only the premature exponent of the anti-Catholic conspirator during the last five years; and, secondly, we must be convinced that our gracious monarch, notwithstanding our distinguished allegiance, has carried us back forcibly to the days of Elizabeth; and we must be thoroughly persuaded that we have no safety for our liberties or our lives, but in our firm, universal, and constitutional combination. A bill for the suppression of piracy on the coast of Barbary or Africa, would not be dispatched with more haste than our gracious Queen has been pleased to evince in executing the royal legality of the bill for the suppression of Catholicity in Great Britain and Ireland. The Catholic Priests are now as illegal a society as the Ribbonmen of Clare. The Bishops are watched as a band of consecrated smugglers—as having illicit religion on board their craft. An ecclesiastical excise establishment is appointed round the coast, to see that the Vatican send no religion above English proof into this country. Lord John Russell has appointed a festival to be held every year on the 4th of November to burn the Blessed Virgin and to spit on the cross; and the British Commons (long life to them, and the British Lords (glory to them,) and the illustrious Queen of England (may god bless her,) have, with one voice, decided that all the Catholic ladies of Great Britain and Ireland are PROSTITUTES (his is the word,) and that their children's children's children are BASTARDS by the laws of England! Some one, perhaps the editor of a paper, may reply to me and say—"No;" but I say—"Yes, yes." He may still persist and say—"The Lord Chancellor of England, oh! has said from the woolsack, oh! that THE LAW will not be so interpreted;" but I repeat again, that the Lord Chancellor may be a Whig, and therefore cannot be believed on any point of law relating to Catholicity; and, moreover, that any Irish lady, or any Irish child who would or could believe any one word uttered by the same party, deserves to be branded with the opprobrious epithet which has been passed into British law by the British senate, and which has been changed from a filthy idea into British legality by the chaste signature of our royal mistress. But, so help me God! I would prefer any punishment contained in the penal code of the infamous statute-book of the infamous Elizabeth, sooner than submit (as far as the constitution would permit) to an active or passive consent to that law, in thought, or word, or deed.

I should wish to learn by what designation Lord and Lady Beaumont, with the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, and others, will be received at court in their future attendance on the Queen. Being illegitimate