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**LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.**  
 London, Ont., May 21, 1878.  
 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 aim 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,  
 Yours very sincerely,  
 JOHN WALSH,  
 Bishop of London.

**MR. THOMAS COFFEY**  
 Office of the "Catholic Record."  
**LETTER FROM BISHOP CLEARY.**  
 Bishop's Palace, Kingston, 19th 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 their reading, and help the young to acquire a taste for pure literature. I shall be pleased if my Rev. Clergy will continue your mission for the diffusion of the RECORD among the congregations. Yours faithfully,  
 JAMES CLEARY, Bishop of Kingston.

**MR. DONAT CROWE, Agent for the CATHOLIC RECORD.**

**Catholic Record.**  
 LONDON, FRIDAY, MAR. 2, 1883.

**IRISH DISTRESS.**

Mr. Redpath still continues his good work in drawing the close attention and discriminating scrutiny of the American public to the distress in Ireland. The recurrence of that distress after so many attempts at remedial legislation on the part of the British government is a proof positive of the correctness of the position we have so often assumed, viz., that landlordism as at present constituted is the bane of Ireland and should be removed. Mr. Redpath continues to prove by indisputable testimony from the afflicted districts in Ireland, not only the existence of distress in the direct forms, but the causes of its existence. In a late issue of his valued journal we find the following in relation to the diocese of Clonfert, whose bishop resides at Loughrea:

"The town of Loughrea is the property of the Marquis of Clanricard. He has from £20,000 to £40,000 per annum in rents from his estates in the county Galway. He has never visited the estate in the neighborhood of Loughrea or the town itself since he came into its possession. He never (in his, the Bishop's opinion) spent one shilling in Loughrea in charity or employment, or gave any reduction in his rents except £70 per annum, which his father allowed in aid of the rates to the town commissioners, and which he continued to allow. There were increases made in the rents of the holdings of several tenants in the Loughrea estate after Galway election of Nolan and French.

"A couple of years ago there was a great fuel famine in Loughrea. The people were perishing with cold. A meeting was held at which his Lordship the Bishop, presided, and large subscriptions were given by the local proprietors. Mr. Smith, of Masonbrook, gave £22. A respectful letter was written to Clanricard, representing to him the deplorable condition of the people, and asking him to assist. He did not even answer nor acknowledge the letter.

"A railway was for a long time in contemplation between Loughrea and Athlery, which would have vastly increased the commercial prosperity of the town. The Marquis of Clanricard refused to join with the other local proprietors in encouraging the project, or to give the land in his estate required for the railway at one penny less than the full valuation that could be got for it.

"In consequence of neglect Loughrea is rapidly falling away in trade and importance. The Bishop's door is constantly besieged with beggars.

"His Lordship, speaking of landlordism in this diocese, said that, he had heard constant rumors of wholesale and merciless evictions by Mr. James Blake in 1855, and some of the tenants then evicted are beggars to-day in the streets of Loughrea.

"Just before the death of the old Marquis of Clanricard he had promised a site for the erection of a

Catholic Cathedral in Loughrea. The arrangements, title, etc., were arranged, but the old Marquis died before matters were complete, and the present Marquis refused to carry out the project or give the site."

But this is not the only evidence adduced by Mr. Redpath. He publishes a letter from Rev. Father Mellet, P. P. of Killeen, Spiddall, Co. Galway, from which we extract a few lines. Father Mellet says:

"The potato crop failed partially last year. The failure of the crop is a sure precursor of famine, as the people have to depend for support chiefly on the potato.

"Of the 700 families in the parish, 300, I believe, will be destitute during the summer months. One-half of these 300 will be destitute not only during the summer months, but also during the spring months. I may say they are destitute already. They will not be able to do any spring work for themselves, as they have no seeds, nor will they be able to purchase any without external aid.

"There is no demand whatever for labor. The holdings are small and of very inferior quality—generally reclaimed bog. The average yearly yield of each holding is about £4. As a rule every family can easily cultivate its own. Where additional aid might be required, poverty prevents its acquisition.

"I could easily get a thousand persons to work at a shilling a day, but there is no employment. A paternal government could easily find employment for them, either in the reclamation of waste lands, of which there is any quantity, or in other productive works. But it offers them only the emigrant ship, or servitude for life in a workhouse prison."

This letter is dated Jan. 9th, 1883. Its statements are incontrovertible, and are more strongly condemnatory of landlordism and British misrule than any we could venture to make. But we have before us through the earnest solicitude of Mr. Redpath on behalf of the Irish tenantry another letter from Connemara that speaks volumes on the condition of that unfortunate section of a distressed and sorrowed land. The writer says:

"The staple food of nearly all in Connemara consisted of potatoes and fish.

"By kelp, had been a few pounds earned for some years. A man of more courage than his fellows ventured to rear two cows or so on land that really could not feed a goat.

"Boggy, marshy land is the sort of land that surrounds my house. I protest I cannot obtain half enough of milk for my own solitary needs for any offer of money.

"At the end of another month 209 families will be without potatoes—even verging on destitution. I need not remind you of another cause that has ruined Ireland. If some of the land in West Connemara had been given gratuitously, people could not subsist on it. The fish seem to have deserted these shores. No gurnets, herrings, save a few far out from us.

"Money is extremely needed in this parish. Productive remunerative works constantly in operation. This the half-famished creatures want. Money never should be sent to any part of Connemara save on the indispensable condition of earning it by work. Send the money to Dr. McEvilly, Archbishop of Tuam. His Grace will see it rightly distributed.

"I suggest that you thus apportion your aid for: Gurranna Island 300 families, Lettermore Island 180 families. In the mainland—townlands of Clynagh, Shruflawnava, also sadly need your help; 80 families among them are very destitute.

"No arguments nor statistics are required to prove the existence of dire want in this part of Connemara."

These are the views of men competent to form just and discriminating judgment on the Irish land system. We give their expression prominently that our readers may see for themselves the evils of a system whose iniquities have filled the world with horror, shamed humanity and disgraced the civilization of the age. Away, say we, utterly and absolutely, away with that blood-stained and accursed system. Speak not to us of the rights of property in connection with Irish landlordism. The rights of property are sacred and inviolable, but cannot be invoked

to cover infamy before which the enormities of slavery itself pale into insignificance. No man is invested with a right to starve his fellow being and then rob him. Yet this is the result of Irish landlordism throughout the greater part of that unfortunate country whose wails of want and distress so often afflict the wearied ear of humanity.

**THE RECORD OF CRIME.**  
 American criminal returns for 1882 present some very singular features. Throughout the year there were on an average two murders a day, while the executions reached an average of only two a week. There were, besides the regular legal executions, fifty-seven lynchings. This is a much smaller number than we should have been led to believe from exaggerated newspaper reports. Lynch law, it has been well remarked, is by no means an inevitable accompaniment of American life. Nor is human life exposed to such dangers from violence in the South as New England journals would have the people of the North believe, especially about election time. Of the total 730 murders committed during the year only 212 were perpetrated in the entire south, while in New York state alone there were 131 murders, of which 76 were committed in New York city and 14 in Brooklyn.

The number of legal executions during the year was 101. Of these 53, or more than half, took place in the south, while in the state of New York, which furnished one-sixth of the total number of murders, there were only four executions. This fact indicates that there is after all a sounder public opinion in the south on the subject of punishment for crime than is generally attributed to that section of the republic. During the year 1882 there were also, as far as could be ascertained, 383 suicides, and of these New York supplied 184. This is indeed a sad showing for the great commonwealth. Surely some of the labor and treasure expended by American bible and tract societies on the heathen might be well devoted to the improvement of the moral sentiment of the leading state of the union.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.**  
 There was some few years ago a very decided disposition manifested by certain of our republican neighbors in favor of the abolition of capital punishment. In certain states, the abolition of capital punishment was decreed by the popular vote swayed by the teachings of certain doctrinaires always eager for distinction as friends of humanity. In Maine and Michigan the views of such men prevailed and the abolition of capital punishment within their limits decreed by the voice of the people. In other portions of the union this same view for a time prevailed, but did not obtain as firm a hold on the public mind as in the two states just mentioned. In these states it is now altogether probable that a change is coming over popular opinion in respect of the abolition of capital punishment. It has in fact worked very badly in both.

In 1870, the convicts undergoing life imprisonment for murder in Maine alone were 6 per cent of the whole number; in 1876, 10 per cent; in 1882, 25 per cent. These figures are really alarming and should open the eyes of our good neighbors in Maine to the truth that crime of a severer, like that of a lighter character, is fond of companionship. Nothing but the most rigid repression can prevent the increase of crime and the people of Maine and Michigan will soon learn, if they have not already learned, that dealing with heinous crimes after the manner in which they at present deal with them, is no preventative whatever against their increase. In connection with this subject the American very significantly remarks that:

"It is rather curious that, with the decline of the belief in everlasting punishment in the future life, grows the unwillingness to pass the worst criminals on to what people now profess to regard as another stage of probation. Is it because people

doubt the validity of their own reasoning, that, like Voltaire and Diderot, they feel no certainty that there is no endless hell, and therefore incline to act as though there were one? Or is it that both the disbelief in hell and the disuse of capital punishment have the same root,—more vivid appreciation of physical suffering than of moral degradation."

Both feelings have had, we think, a great deal to do with the creation of that morbid sentiment which in some of the neighboring commonwealths has brought about the temporary abolition of capital punishment. We trust that the decline of the sentiment in favor of the abolition of capital punishment indicates also a decline in the infidel tendencies of the age.

**FLOODS IN EUROPE.**  
 Our readers can form some idea of the disastrous consequences of floods in Europe from the statement in the Scientific American that a dispatch from the Imperial German Foreign Office at Berlin to the German Consul at Boston states that through the inundations last autumn 20,000 houses, 130,000 persons, and 150,000 acres of land and property have suffered damage in Prussia alone, and the damage by the December floods has been nearly as great. In the Bayrische Rheinplatz 1,000 houses were swept away and 12,000 persons rendered homeless. Hessen and other districts along the rivers suffered the same calamity.

The Scientific American adds that the floods in Austria, Italy, and other parts of Europe were quite as disastrous as those of Prussia.

It is impossible even from the figures given by our contemporary to form anything like a just idea of the sufferings and privations caused by these terrible inundations. Their worst characteristic is that they are of such frequent occurrence. Moreover, it does not appear that the governments of those countries whose people suffer most from inundations take any effectual steps to protect the latter from their ravages.

In connection with this subject we are happy to perceive that steps have been taken in the American Congress to procure a substantial measure of aid for the sufferers from the late floods in Germany.

**FOREST PRESERVATION.**  
 The subject of forest preservation has assumed practical importance in the state of New York. The citizens of that great commonwealth are now fully alive to the importance of saving the woodlands of the Adirondack forests, out of which flow the Hudson River and other streams as well of great commercial, manufacturing importance as of sanitary value to the state. The outer and more accessible portions of the original wilderness have been for many years shorn of their timber and large tracts of little or no use from an agricultural standpoint made treeless and barren. While the vast forest areas of Maine and Michigan and other lumber regions were able to supply timber at a less cost for transportation to market, the portions of the Adirondack forests still standing were to a great extent protected from the inroads of the lumbermen. Now, however, the attention of the latter has been directed to this source of timber supply and large tracts of wooded lands in that region have been acquired by them.

"There is no question," says an able American contemporary, "that the general clearing of the Adirondack region of its protecting forests would produce effects of the most disastrous character to the valleys of the streams flowing therefrom; effects like those which, during the past few months, have brought death and desolation to so many European river valleys. The rainfall of the Adirondack region is great; the drainage slopes steep, and without the controlling and restraining influence of the existing swamps and forests about their sources, the rivers which drain this northern wilderness would show only great and sudden alternations of flooded and empty channels, destructive at once to the agriculture of the valleys, to the manufacturing interests

which cluster along their banks, and to the commerce of the Hudson, the channel of which has been already seriously obstructed by the detritus washed in from unprotected hill slopes and other spaces stripped of their original forests."

The New York Legislature has taken strong ground for the protection of that portion of the Adirondack forests yet under state control. A bill forbidding the sale of 600,000 acres owned by the state in the Adirondack region, has passed the Senate by a vote of 24 to 5. This action on the part of the legislature shows that the importance of preserving forests from wholesale destruction is now being duly appreciated by the public at large. Our legislators must before many years take vigorous action to preserve Canadian forests from wholesale destruction. Fire is in this country the greatest enemy of our wooded lands, but we do think that more stringent regulations might very justly be adopted in relation to the cutting of timber, and some provision made for the re-wooding of many tracts of land denuded of forest by fire or otherwise.

**REDUCTION IN POSTAGE.**  
 The American Senate has made an amendment to the Post Office appropriation bill that cannot fail to attract attention in this country. The amendment changes the date when the reduction of letter postage to two cents shall go into effect from January 1st, 1884, as proposed by the House, to July 1st, 1883. With this amendment the bill passed.

We are not aware that the Canadian government proposes to introduce this session any similar legislation on the subject of postal reduction. We hope, however, that the session will not be allowed to pass over without some promise from the government of its intention to make at the earliest moment a reduction in postage similar to that provided for in the United States. We have frequently maintained that there is no reason why such a reduction should not be made. It is idle to say that the revenues of the Post Office department are far behind its expenditure. We should be glad to see the expenditure in that and every other department brought within its revenue, but in a new country like Canada, it is utterly impossible that for many years such could be the case. The Post Office, we may point out, should not be an engine of taxation. It exerts a potent influence as a medium of civilization and enlightenment. That influence it is the duty of every government to widen and increase by the liberal application of surplus revenues derived from other sources. Our government is now blessed with a very large surplus, and can easily afford as well to reduce the rate of postage as to enlarge the scope of our postal system.

**A TRIBUTE TO THE JESUITS.**  
 The Evening Express, published in Edinburgh, Scotland, has of late paid a just tribute to the Jesuits for their services to humanity and to civilization. The Express is a pronounced Protestant organ. Its testimony is therefore all the more valuable. It calls attention to the summing a few months ago of Father Alphonse Renard from Belgium by the British government to form part of the expedition of the Challenger. More recently still in the month of August last another Jesuit, Father Stephen Perry, was sent by the government of Her Majesty to Madagascar to observe the passage of Venus, a mission with which he had been on other occasions honored.

Father James Stevenson, a Scotch Jesuit, has under the direction of the government, made many valuable literary researches. He lately prepared in Rome an exhaustive report on the investigations he had succeeded in making in the archives and library of the Vatican. Father Stevenson was also during the past year named a member of an important Parliamentary commission. The Express adds that the Rev. Father M. Sweeney, another Jesuit, is at this moment busily engaged in studies that will shed brilliant light on the ecclesiastical history of Scotland.

**TO BE CROWNED.**  
 It appears after all that the Czar is to be crowned. From Moscow it is learned that immense preparations are being made for the coronation. It is evident that the government must feel assured of the inability of Nihilism to endanger the life of the Czar, or such preparations would not be entered on. To make, however, the present system popular will require some energetic and systematic reform in every department of the government as will prevent the re-organization of the Nihilist conspiracy, which was, with all its faults, the outcome of a public demand for justice. We greatly fear that no such action will be taken by the Russian government, and that it will be again brought face to face with some danger, not only to its own existence, but to the very existence of social order itself in Eastern Europe. The worst feature of despotism is that in its destruction is involved the destruction of happiness for multitudes of men wholly free from responsibility for its misdeeds.

**THE IRISH PEASANT.**  
 No class of people on the face of the earth has been so much subjected to slander and injustice as the peasantry of Ireland. They have been accused of every crime in the whole category of moral and social delinquencies.

The world has been informed and assured that the Irish peasant is ignorant, that he is cruel, that he is bloodthirsty and barbarous to the very last degree. If he were so in general the responsibility would rest, as it does rest wherever he is so in particular, on the brutal system of government to which it is his misfortune to be subjected. But by his manly instincts, his bright and comprehensive intelligence, and principally by means of his thoroughly christian character, the Irish peasant is not so. He is as Justin McCarthy describes him:

"The Irish peasant," says that able writer, "is an intelligent man. Of late years he has become a great politician, and an eager reader of the newspapers. When I speak of him as a reader of the newspapers I fear I may be conveying a wrong idea or indulging in too wide a generalisation, for it is unfortunately true that in many cases even now the Irish laborer cannot read. But he is a student of the newspaper all the same, for in the evenings, or at least in some evening of every week, when the papers come down from Dublin, there is a gathering at the house of some one who has a rather better room than his neighbors, and the political contents of a newspaper are read aloud, and made the subject of keen and earnest comment. Many a laborer will go to a second house the same night to hear the contents of the same paper read out again. Downtrodden barbarian ignorance there never was among even the poorest of the Irish laboring class."

Mr. McCarthy further goes on to say: "The too true stories which used to be told some years ago by the late Mr. Clay, chaplain of the Preston goal, and by many other men, touching the brutal ignorance of masses of the English rural and mining population, never could have been told of Ireland. We used to hear then of men who never knew what the word 'God' meant, and only used it as an expletive of emphatic adjuration; had never heard of London, and did not know that England was an island. Not merely was there no such class of men in Ireland; there was no such man. Even among the scattered and remote populations of the west, even in those wild regions of Connemara and Mayo, where few speak anything but Irish, I am told that the laborers still contrive to get the contents of a newspaper interpreted to them, and are never entirely ignorant of what is going on in the world around them."

**ANOTHER SAMPLE OF MANY.**  
 St. Mary's, Feb. 19th, 1883.  
 MR. COFFEY—Dear Sir:—You will find enclosed \$2.00, my subscription for 1883. I am very much pleased with your paper, and would not be without it in my family. Yours very truly,  
 ROBERT QUAYLE.

**THE LICENSE QUESTION.**  
 The License Commissioners of Montreal have addressed an important petition to the Dominion government. Their petition recites the fact that the Privy Council of Her Majesty, the highest Court in the Empire, has lately given its decision in the case of Russell vs. the Queen from which we infer that the Federal Government has solely the right of prohibiting and regulating the sale of spirituous liquors throughout the Dominion, and this altogether independent of the Local Legislatures, which, nevertheless, have the rights of imposing a tax on all engaged in this trade. From this, think the Commissioners, it may be taken for granted that the Quebec Legislature has the right, as in the past, of imposing such a tax, but all laws and regulations passed by it to limit or prohibit such trade must be considered as void and as having no force. Therefore, they think they should not any longer be guided by such laws and regulations; and, at present it believes that such laws a regulations do not exist. But as the Dominion Parliament is about to legislate on this matter, as announced in the speech from the Throne at the opening of the Parliament now in session, and as it is of the greatest importance that this trade should be limited rather than increased, they are of opinion that a smaller number of licenses should be granted. Pending the action that is proposed to be taken by the Commons Parliament the Commissioners suspend all further proceedings with regard to the applications for licenses that have been made till the 1st of May. The Commissioners conclude their report with an expression to the effect that they hope the Dominion Parliament will settle the matter with the least possible delay, as it is one of great importance to a large section of the population.

This is a very important action on the part of the License Commissioners of Montreal, and practically makes the trade in liquor in that great city free till legislation is had from Ottawa. Now free trade in intoxicating liquors is an evil of such magnitude as to call for very prompt action. We hope there will be no unnecessary interference with existing Provincial legislation anywhere on the subject of liquor licenses, but as some legislation on the part of the Dominion Parliament regulating and restricting the liquor traffic appears necessary, we hope to see it enacted at the earliest possible date, and trust that it may, while removing doubts as to existing laws, raise not other doubts likely to give rise to litigation and to political agitation of a dangerous character to the very existence of the Confederation.

**GALWAY.**  
 Redpath's Illustrated recently contained a very fine and exact map of the noble county of Galway. Galway has always done its share bravely on behalf of Ireland and of liberty. It will be, therefore, interesting to our readers—many of whom, by birth or origin, hail from that historic county—to know that it is one of the largest counties in Ireland, being 84 miles long and 62 broad. It contains, says Redpath's, 1,566,352 acres—239,902 are under tillage, 794,710 in pasture, 23,910 in plantations, 426,600 waste, bogs, etc., and 90,280 under water. The principal islands are Inishmore, population 2,392; Inishman, 473; Inishere, 456; Gt. Inish and Inishark. Lough Corrib is the largest lake, and is navigable from the sea to Cong, in Mayo. Iron and lead are found, and limestone and marble are the chief minerals. In Connemara there is abundance of most beautiful green variegated marble, called serpentine; and black is found near Oughterdun. The occupations are principally agricultural. A company for deep-sea-fishing and trawling has been established in Galway. Population in 1881, 222,756. Galway is the principal town, population, 18,906. The constabulary force consists of 13 officers and 610 men. There are barrack stations at Loughrea, Dunmore, Portumna, Galway, Gort and Oughterdun.

**VINE CULTURE.**  
 It will be interesting to many of our readers to know that there has been of late a great increase in the size of vineyards in California. We are told that while a plantation of 200 acres used to be considered a large vineyard, now vineyards of 500 and 600 acres are not uncommon, and one of 1,500 acres was recently planted near Los Angeles. It is also, we learn, ex-