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LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.
 LONDON, Oct., May 22, 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 one 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,"
 FROM HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP HANNAN.
 St. Mary's, Halifax, N. S., June 30, 1882.
 I have had opportunity 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 diocese. I beg to inform that paper to all the faithful of this diocese.
 + MICHAEL HANNAN, Archbishop of Halifax.

LETTER FROM MGR. POWER.
 The following letter was given to our agent in Halifax by Mgr. Power, administrator of the Archdiocese of Halifax.
 St. Mary's, Halifax, N. S., June 30, 1882.
 DEAR MR. WALSH—It is with pleasure that I give my approval to the work in which you are engaged, as I have always considered the "Record" to be a valuable and truly Catholic paper, deserving of every encouragement and support.
 From my long personal knowledge of your high character for integrity, I can cheerfully recommend you to those on whom you may call, in the course of business, as a person in every respect worthy of confidence.
 Hoping you may obtain a long list of subscribers, and wishing a blessing on your good work.
 I am, sincerely yours,
 PATRICK MGR. POWER, Administrator.

Catholic Record.
 LONDON, FRIDAY, OCT. 20, 1882.

THE IRISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The meeting of the Irish National Conference will be justly looked upon as one of the most important of recent events in the history of Ireland. From the latest despatches we have read up to the time of writing, we learn that the programme of the conference is strictly constitutional and parliamentary. This will be good news to all Irishmen and friends of Ireland. The agitation for land tenure reform is not to cease, but will not of course be marked by the intensity that has hitherto characterized it. The reason is obvious. Ireland has gained so much by the agitation that it has now an excellent foothold on which to rest for quieter but not less energetic work. The result of the proceedings of the conference will likely be the promulgation of a platform of principles, the following being the main planks: First, self-government for the Irish people in the full American sense; second, protection to Irish industries, and government aid in every way possible for their development as a means for encouraging Irish agriculture by giving it a home market, a strong body of artisans, and of making the state, as far as possible, independent of other nations. Third, the creation of an Irish peasant proprietorship, the state to advance the entire sums of money necessary to enable the peasants to purchase in fee their own lands, the moneys so advanced to be repayable to the state after 63 years, on small payments yearly, and thereafter with lawful interest on the balance. Fourth, the transfer of the uncultivated lands of Ireland by compulsory purchase to county boards for reclamation, improvement and final sale to the peasantry. Fifth, the abolition of the vice-royalty in Ireland and the substitution thereof of a system of local self-government, by which the various county boards of Ireland will perform for their respective counties all the local governmental functions necessary, and at present obliged to be, under the viceregal system performed unjustly or inadequately by royal underlings, either ignorant of the methods of the people or indifferent to them. Sixth, land law reform in such a general and thorough way as will abolish the entail of primogeniture and all the special features of the English system that go to foster aggregation of land titles and the creation of landed aristocracies. No reasonable objection can be taken to agitation for purposes so just, but objection will, however, be taken, and it may be many years before the reforms defined and claimed by the conference will be achieved. But their ultimate achievement is assured if the Irish people maintain that noble attitude of unity and determination they have held under laws the most oppressive that have ever blotted the British statute book.

DISCOURSE OF THE HOLY FATHER.

At the consistory held on the 25th ult., the Holy Father pronounced a brief but remarkable discourse to the bishops present, after having invested them with the rochet. The Supreme Pontiff said that he was on that day happy to be enabled to give new pastors to widowed sees, and to have taken the prelates he had named into co-operation with himself in the arduous mission of saving souls. "Adorned as you are," he said, addressing the bishops, "with the episcopal qualities of which St. Paul inculcated the necessity to his well beloved disciples, Titus and Timothy; commissioned by the legitimate authority presiding over the government of the universal church; blessed by the Vicar of Jesus Christ; you will certainly cause to spring up in your respective fields of labor the rich and precious fruits of eternal life. For this reason we should wish to say to you, go without delay into the midst of your children who await you with anxiety, go bring them the consolation of your word, your zeal, your charity." The Holy Father then made allusion to the difficulties set up by the Italian government in the way of many bishops taking possession of their sees. Although, after the last consistory, the royal *exequatur* had been granted to some bishops. But, with the exception of a few, only after prolonged and vexatious delays. For instance, the former bishop of Volterra, who had been appointed *coadjutor* of Pisa in November last, only obtained the *exequatur* after nine months of reiterated urgency. The bishops of Fano, Volterra, Rimini, Nocera and many others still await it in vain. The Holy Father stated that he had within a few days received a petition signed by all classes of citizens in Nocera, begging of him to send them the pastor whom he had named many months ago to rule their church. "But how," said he, "can we satisfy the desires of our children when those who hold the reins of power in Italy, in place of granting us our just demands, constantly raise new obstacles, and thus aggravate the condition of the church in Italy. What we desire not to omit is the exposure of these facts which constitute a grave attack on the liberty of our Apostolic power and render every day the government of the church more difficult."

The Holy Father concluded as follows: "Meantime, do ye pray most ardently the Lord that he may vouchsafe to sustain us in a condition of things so cruel and calamitous, and that he may soon open to you the path to your sees, in order that you may be enabled to bestow on your clergy and people the benefits of your evangelical charity and of your pastoral solicitude. That these benefits may be the more fecund and salutary, we with all the effusion of our soul grant you the most abundant blessings."

After this solemn protestation from the Vicar of Christ, can it be claimed for the government of Italy that it permits religious freedom? The atheist, the infidel, the blasphemer, is free in unified Italy, but not the Catholic. The church is hampered by every species of persecution on the part of those in power, and menaced with total destruction by the radicals now striving for office. This is, indeed, an intolerable state of things. It cannot last. The friends of the monarchy may too soon perceive that in embarrassing the church and persecuting the Papacy they deprived that monarchy of its only strength, the religious respect of the people for constituted authority, which can never be respected when violating the fundamental principles of order and justice.

M. DUCLERC AND THE CHURCH.

The Duclerc Ministry has diligently applied itself to continue faithfully the policy of vexation and embarrassment of preceding Cabinets in regard of the church. In a circular addressed to the bishops, the Under-Secretary of State, M. Develle, warns the French episcopacy that all the ecclesiastical and religious establishments and, in particular, the authorized congregations, are required, whenever called on, to transmit to the officers of registration their registers and *minutes d'actes*, in order that the said officers may see to the execution of the laws on stamps and registration.

This is, we presume, the mode taken to effect conciliation, to satisfy at one and the same time the opportunists and extremists. The *Moniteur Universel*, speaking of this action of the government, states that the decree on which its course is based—dating back from the worst days of the first revolution—applies only to the collectors of communal taxes and revenues and of other public institutions. It is absurd to bring within these limits authorized religious bodies or any religious establishment whatever. But the French government, having exiled the unauthorized religious orders, is evidently determined to harass those legally authorized with such persistence as to drive them also from France. The present Cabinet is indeed no improvement on its predecessor, but fortunately its tenure of office will be brief.

TELEGRAPH MONOPOLY.

We learn on excellent authority that at the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Union Telegraph Company, the President, Mr. Norvin Green, stated that his annual report as compared with the last annual report of his predecessor would show that in the brief space of five years a marvellous increase had been made in the company's gross receipts as also in its net profits. The gross receipts for the fiscal year closed in June last, were over \$17,000,000, and the net profits over 7,100,000, as against gross receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, \$9,800,000, and net profits \$3,100,000, making an increase in five years of 80 per cent in the gross revenues, of more than 130 per cent in the net profits. President Green also added:

"During this period of five years, the mileage of lines has been increased from 76,955 to 131,032, and of wires from 194,233 to 374,294 miles; the number of offices from 7,500 to 12,050, and the number of messages from 21,158,941 to 39,000,000, not including messages sent over wires leased to the press and to brokers, and a very large number of messages sent for railway companies, of which no account is taken; showing an increase of over 30 per cent in the plant, 60 per cent in the number of offices, and (including the growing railroad service) of more than 100 per cent in the amount of work done over the wires."

The figures given by Mr. Green show that the Western Union has made gigantic strides in advance, and that its stock is in no present danger, at all events of depreciation. These figures are interesting to Canadians, for the Western Union now enjoys a practical monopoly of the main lines of telegraph in the Dominion. The Montreal and Dominion lines, which, when operated separately, did so much for the benefit of our people, are now controlled by the Western Union. The very first effect of the amalgamation of the lines was an advance of 20 per cent in the rate of ordinary messages, but other results which always follow the disappearance of competition have been already felt in some degree, and will be felt more seriously as years roll on, unless the intervention of a strong public opinion causes some radical change in the management of our telegraphic system. We are decidedly in favor of some such radical change. The present rates exacted by the Western Union line are, in our estimation, more than the service it renders is really worth, and much heavier and more burdensome than they would be if the company had not a veritable monopoly of the business. Experience has shown that the starting of rival companies is not to be relied on as a safe mode of combatting monopoly. We have had that experience in Canada. Our neighbors across the lines have had it and view with distrust the renewal of any such attempts. The only way that in our opinion this telegraphic monopoly can be broken and made to disappear, is through the purchase by Government of all the telegraphic lines in the Dominion. The government can operate these lines cheaply and effectively as a portion of the Post Office service. The postal and telegraphic services should be controlled by the one authority, by government, for the benefit of the people in general, not the benefit of a pampered and privileged few. In Great Britain this is the case. Why not give the system a trial in Canada? Our government had a large surplus last year

and expects a larger surplus next year. Could not a portion of it be applied to the purchase of existing telegraphic interests and the subsequent amalgamation of the telegraphic and postal services of the Dominion?

PAUPERISM.

The following paragraph appeared in a late issue of the Toronto Mail: "Canada is probably as free from pauperism as any other country in the world, but it has quite as much of it as is good for it. Any material increase of this element in our population is not at all desirable. The prospect of a large pauper immigration from the South of Ireland is not a pleasing one. For active, self-reliant, industrious people, who are prepared to work for their living, we have plenty of room in this country, and the fact that they have but little in their pockets should be no bar to their coming. A man who brings with him the brain and muscle of a man, and the will to work, comes not without capital. He brings with him that without which no other form of capital that can be brought into the country can be made productive. But the parasitic class, who have learned to live upon others, have lost all those qualities which would make them anything but an intolerable burden, and a source of danger to us in this country. We don't want them. We have evil elements enough in our population without having them augmented by the ignorance, idleness and vice inseparable from the pauperism of the Old World."

We concur with the Mail in its statement that Canada is probably as free from pauperism as any other country in the world, and trust that there may be no material increase in the pauper element of our population. But we differ from our contemporary in his statement that the prospect of a large pauper immigration from the south of Ireland, is not a pleasing one. The pauper class in the south of Ireland, as in other parts of that unfortunate country, is made up of individuals whose destitute position is due, except in few instances, not to unwillingness on their part to work, but to inability to procure work. Rack-rents, bad laws, and absence of home government have reduced to pauperism many Irish families of real industry and merit. The Mail says that we don't want such people. We say that Canada has ample room for them. Give them the opportunity and they will be found as active, self-reliant and industrious as any other class of immigrants.

The Mail speaks of a parasitic class, who have learned to live upon others, as likely to prove an intolerable burden. We have indeed sufficient experience of that class in Canada. Its representatives are not, however, from the south of Ireland, and few of them hail from Ireland at all. But we have seen many of them without industry, self-reliance or activity pitchedforked into prominent positions in this country to the exclusion of Canadian merit and ability. They were not of the pauper class in the sense of our contemporary. They were the lops of the decayed and sapless tree of effete aristocracy. By all means let us have Irish paupers, with brain and muscle and willing to work. If all such come, there will be few paupers left in Ireland.

THE SENATE.

By the death of the Hon. Mr. Hamilton, and the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Aikens to the Lieut. Governorship of Manitoba, there are now two more vacancies in the Senatorial representation of Ontario. Among the names most favorably mentioned for one of the vacant places is that of Dr. Sullivan of Kingston. Dr. Sullivan has long occupied a prominent position in the ranks of the Conservative party and enjoys an influence commensurate with his respectability and thorough Catholicity. He has never thrust himself forward, as others have done, as a representative Catholic, claiming that distinction because of a lack of true Catholic spirit and a superabundance of selfish greed and brazen audacity. The Catholics of Ontario are entitled by right of numbers and of good citizenship to another representative in the Senate. Dr. Sullivan has all the qualities required of a parliamentarian. He is quick of perception, fluent in speech, sound in judgment. His appointment, which we hope soon to be enabled to chronicle, would give hearty satisfaction to the whole Catholic body of Ontario, and, we may also say, to the entire population of the old Catewaqui district where he is best known.

GOLDWIN SMITH ON IRELAND.

Prof. Goldwin Smith has risen to explain his views on the Irish question, but we fear that his explanations cannot relieve him from the imputations of prejudice of a pronounced character in regard to all matters Irish. Prof. Smith, we are told, writes that he had advocated measures of repression not because of any hostility to the Irish, but because the Parliaments abused their prerogatives as members of Parliament for the purpose of wrecking parliamentary government in the interest of disunion. There is no doubt, says Prof. Smith, that if the party of Southern members of Congress had similarly endeavored to wreck the American Legislature, they would have been put down with as little compunction as was shown the rebelling Irish in the draft riots in New York. It seems to be forgotten, he adds, that in an agrarian reign of terror the murdered, as well as the murderers, are Irish, while the chief authors of the system are New York Fenians, and their organ, the *Irish World* is the property of a Jew.

In every one of his recent articles on the Irish question, Mr. Goldwin Smith has, notwithstanding his denial, shown the bitter hostility to Ireland. A man who could go so far as to propose the disfranchisement of the Irish constituencies because their members had acted perfectly within their right, has no just conception of representative government, and is an avowed enemy of liberty. In the very paper he has recently written in answer to Mr. Godkin, he shows his love of brute force, in stating that if obstruction tactics were employed in the American Congress, the obstructionists would be treated as were the disaffected Irish in the draft riots of New York. Prof. Smith cannot really be ignorant of the fact that not one session of Congress passes by without obstruction being extensively practised by minorities. So it is also in Canada, and by means of obstruction tactics employed by minorities, legislation of a deleterious character has been frequently retarded if not prevented. The Irish party, indeed, consisted of but few members, as compared with the English and Scotch majority, but few as they were, they represented the views and expressed the feelings of an entire nation, and had a perfect right to employ every form of Parliamentary practice and procedure to defeat legislation conceived in a spirit of hostility and injustice to Ireland. No majority in Congress, whether Democratic or Republican, would think of dealing with a minority as the Irish minority has been dealt with. No one forgets that in the land troubles the murdered and the murderers are in both cases very often Irish, but we deny that there is any organized system about these crimes, which none more loudly condemn and reprobate than Irishmen themselves. We fail to see what the ownership of the *Irish World* has to do with the question at issue.

TURKISH DIPLOMACY.

The Sublime Porte seems at last to understand that its tergiversations in questions of international import almost always end to its disadvantage. So rightly thinks the *Journal de Rome*. There is now deep lamentation in Constantinople over the hesitation shown by the Turkish government in the earlier phases of the Egyptian crisis. That hesitation has seriously compromised, if not irrevocably destroyed, the sovereign rights of the Sultan in the government of Egypt. The Porte has already, to all appearances, profited by the lesson taught it by its folly in the Egyptian embroglio. How otherwise account for the speedy settlement of the difficulties with Greece on the subject of the frontier? The Turkish government really purposed eluding the settlement agreed upon last year by the international boundary commission. But Greece, having bravely repelled its every attempt, or any other arrangement but that then solemnly entered into, the matter would, if Turkey persisted in its unjustifiable attitude, have become one for European deliberation. The wily Turk well knows that any Congress of the powers that might be assembled would without delay order the execution of the agreement entered into by the international convention, and therefore, to avoid another humiliation, gave way to the demands of his weaker neighbor. To be faithful, however, to its traditions, the Porte still holds one portion of the boundary line as drawn by the Commission in dispute. That portion of the frontier in the vicinity of Grauitza shall, we are told, be hereafter regulated. If this be a scheme of the Porte to re-open the whole question at some future day, the matter of the bound-

dary between Turkey and Greece can hardly be looked upon as definitely settled. In any case, the course of the Sultan on the Egyptian difficulties has done more serious injury to Turkish prowess than could a most unsuccessful war for it deprives him of European support, without which he cannot get the better of even a small state like Greece.

THE FALL ELECTIONS.

The recent elections in Ohio give the Democrats just ground of hope that the coming electoral struggle in other states will result in a complete triumph for their standard-bearers. Last year the democracy was defeated in Ohio by a majority of 24,000. This year it is victorious by 35,000, indicating a gain of 59,000 within twelve months. That party has, besides, made a gain of eight congressmen, returning, amongst others, Mr. Frank Hurd, one of the ablest men that ever held a seat in Congress. The delegation from Ohio in the next Congress will consist of 15 democrats against 6 republicans. In New York and Pennsylvania there are serious dissensions in the republican ranks, making the success of their opponents at least in the former state a foregone conclusion. If the "Independent Republican" movement in Pennsylvania develop as much strength as its efforts last year would indicate, the stalwart faction will evidently lose control over that fine commonwealth. Even in Massachusetts the democrats are hopeful of success for their state ticket. We hope, at all events, to be enabled, when the battle is over, to chronicle the election of Gen. Collins, of Boston, one of the most gifted of Irish Americans, to Congress.

MARINE DISASTERS.

The record of marine disasters on the inland waters of Western Ontario for the past three years, presents some facts of very sad import. For 1883 these disasters, so far as reported, have been in most cases accompanied by an appalling loss of human life. At the very opening of navigation we had the burning of the *Manitoulin*, by which twenty-five persons lost their lives. Then came the burning of the *Vanderbilt*, on the 10th of June, in which, however, there were fortunately no lives lost. From June till September there was a lull in the work of destruction on our inland waters. But the autumn gales of the latter month proved too formidable for some of the frail and misshapen craft that plough these waters. The loss of the *Asia*, with more than one hundred persons, which we had to chronicle but a few weeks ago, is one of the very saddest occurrences that has ever darkened the annals of Canadian navigation. Besides the foundering of the *Asia*, to the credit of 1882 must be written the sinking of the *Nellie Sherwood*, also on the Georgian Bay, without a survivor to tell its heartrending story. In 1881, the Victoria disaster, which took place on the Thames, near this city, involving a loss of one hundred and eighty-one lives, is too well remembered to need any special mention. This awful calamity was, as it is well known, due to the overcrowding of the boat and its unseaworthiness under any circumstances.

On the 10th of July, in the same year, the propeller *City of Winnipeg* was destroyed by fire on Lake Superior, and four persons perished in the flames. On the 10th of September the propeller *Columbia* foundered on Lake Michigan, with the loss of many lives, the exact number never having been ascertained; and on the 25th of November following, the waters of the Georgian Bay engulfed the *Jane Miller*, with passengers and crew, in all twenty-five or thirty persons. In the fall of 1880 occurred the losses of the *Zeland* and *Simcoe*, and in 1879 that of the *Wabano*, resulting in the destruction of many valuable lives. In a word, during the past three years there has been on the western lakes and inland waters of Western Ontario a loss of nearly six hundred persons, a larger number by far than those lost during the entire twenty years preceding. This is a fact that should receive very earnest consideration. We are of opinion that if the inspection of vessels were carried out in strict accordance with the tenor of the law, and the penalties for its infraction enforced, many of the disasters that have been of late chronicled could not have taken place. But the inspection has been so carelessly conducted as to be really farcical. It is time the lives of our people should be protected against scandalous neglect, incompetence and disregard of the law. But besides existing legislation, there is, we believe, wanting some further measure looking to the prohibition of such top-heavy and generally badly constructed vessels as the *Asia* navigating the waters of the great lakes. Even if not overcrowded or over-balanced, with freight heaped together with very poor judgment, on its lower deck it was not, by its peculiar construction, fitted to withstand a gale as severe as that in which it perished. We hope that at the coming session of the Dominion Parliament legislation of the most stringent and effectual character will be devised to meet the evil we indicate. Even if through steamboat inspection be found expedient, the people will be ready to bear the burden to prevent such awful catastrophes as have shocked and horrified them within the past three years.

OUR NORTH WEST.

Before proceeding further with the narrative of my impressions of the North West and my views on its capabilities and promising future, I deem it now time to say a few words as to the status of the Catholic Church in that immense region. The entire country is for purposes of ecclesiastical government divided into two dioceses, those of St. Boniface and St. Albert, and a Vicariate Apostolic called Athabaska MacKenzie. The history of the diocese of St. Boniface is one of deep and peculiar interest. The mission of St. Boniface was founded in 1818 by two French Canadian priests: the Rev. I. N. Provencher and Severin Dumoulin, who, at the request of Lord Selkirk, sent in that year to the Red River country by the Bishop of Quebec. The name of St. Boniface, that of the apostle of Germany, was given the mission in compliment to the Catholic German soldier who had accompanied Lord Selkirk and who had settled in this neighborhood. But long before the founding of this mission Catholic missionaries had penetrated this country. The Canadian North West was discovered and explored by the French in 1666, two French gentlemen, La Grosseclier and Radisson, ascending the Kaministiquia river, which flows from the west into Lake Superior, then crossed to the waters of Rainy river, thence by the Lake of the Woods and the Winnipeg river to Lake Winnipeg. They then proceeded northward through the Nelson to Hudson's Bay, thereby demonstrating the existence of an water route from Lake Superior to Hudson's Bay.

In 1731 Sieur Varennes de la Verandrye, born at Three Rivers, in the interest of a company formed in Montreal, fitted out an expedition which traversed the country from Lake Superior to Rainy Lake, then to the lake of the Woods and down the Winnipeg river to the lake of the name, thence up the river to the confluence of Assiniboine and Red rivers, where he built Fort Rouelle on a site almost directly opposite that of the late Fort Garry. De Verandrye was accompanied by missionary, Pere Messager, the first Catholic priest known to have reached these parts. There were another missionary who accompanied a portion of the expedition, which was led by one of the sons of La Verandrye, Father Arnaud, with his chief was killed by a band of Sioux, between Lake Superior and Rainy Lake. Two other sons of La Verandrye discovered Upper Missouri from Yellowstone to the Rocky Mountains north of Missouri. After the conquest of New France in 1759, and the consequent political changes, exploratory enterprise and missionary zeal were for a time arrested. There were, however, many French Canadians wandering pursuits and love of adventure attracted to the country in interval between the conquest and the establishment of St. Boniface. They were, however, scattered through the country, many of the leading purely nomadic lives. Lord Selkirk, on his arrival in the Red River country, saw at once the advantages that should accrue to settlement by bringing them steady pursuits and providing them with some centre around which to rally. This he wisely judged could be accomplished only through the introduction of Catholic missionaries into the country. The Rev. Mr. Provencher, one of the missionaries who founded the mission of St. Boniface, was raised to the episcopate in 1822, but St. Boniface was not till 1847 elevated to the rank of an episcopal see. Mr. Provencher, who till then had been Coadjutor Auxiliary to the Bishop of Quebec, and Vicar Apostolic of North West Territories, was named its first titular, an honor he held till his death in 1853. In 1845 the episcopate was fortunate enough to cure the services of the Oblate Fathers for the evangelization of immense territory under his jurisdiction. On the 25th of August, 1845, Rev. Father Aubert, of Oblates, accompanied by a novice of the same congregation, arrived at St. Boniface. This novice, M. Andre Taehé, was then in his twenty-second year, but was in October of the same year promoted to the priesthood and appointed to the mission of Isle-a-la-Croix. Next day the zeal, the piety, the sacrifice of the youthful priest in remote charge assigned to such, in a word, were the apostolic qualities recognized in him when enfeebled health rendered necessary the appointment of coadjutor to Bishop Provencher, choice of the Holy See fell