

LETTER.

MONTREAL, 3rd March, 1866.

GENTLEMEN :

If I venture to address the following paragraphs to your attention as a body, irrespective of party, I do so in the fullest confidence, that whether you agree with me in part, or in whole, or not at all, you are at least all equally disposed to give to a respectful statement, over a responsible name, a fair and candid consideration.

In what I have to say, I own at once I bear the testimony of a minority only of the Irish in North America. But the minority with whom my views coincide is not so small as some here and in Ireland may imagine. Many are silent from a constitutional distaste of controversy—many from a weak desire for their own personal ease and tranquillity—many from downright disgust of all things Irish, of a polemical sort. But our minority includes in its numerous ranks, so far as I know, all the Catholic Bishops, and a vast majority of the Priests of Irish origin in North Ame-