

**The Catholic Record**  
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#### LETTER FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP WALSH.

London, Ont., May 23, 1879.  
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 name 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,  
J. WALSH,  
Bishop of London.

MR. THOMAS COFFEY,  
Office of the "Catholic Record."

#### LETTER FROM BISHOP CLEARY.

Bishop's Palace, Kingston, 16th Nov., 1882.  
DEAR SIR.—I am happy to be asked for a word of commendation to the Rev. Clergy and faithful laity of your 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 Sunday readings, and help the young to acquire a taste for pure literature. I shall be pleased if my Rev. Clergy will commend your mission for the diffusion of the RECORD among their congregations of the laity and among their religious communities. Yours faithfully,  
JAMES VINCENT CLEARY,  
Bishop of Kingston.

MR. DONAT CHOW, Agent for the CATHOLIC RECORD.

### Catholic Record.

LONDON, FRIDAY, JAN. 12, 1883.

#### MUNICIPAL REFORM.

Now that the municipal elections are over, it is well to reflect on the advisability of certain reforms being made in the system under which these elections are annually held. We entirely disapprove of the practice that has grown up in our Provincial Legislature of tinkering at every session with our municipal laws. What the people desire and what the country requires is that its municipal institutions be fixed on some firm basis essential to the due administration of the affairs that fall under their scope. The system of municipal government prevailing in Ontario has worked to such advantage that no essential improvement can, we think, just now be suggested. Time may come when some radical defects may appear in its working, but this we are disposed to question. Excellent, however, as is the system, at least to all present appearances, there are, no doubt, amendments which could with profit be made to many details in our municipal machinery. Our county councils have, for instance, in many cases, grown to be large, cumbersome and unwieldy bodies. The business they are called upon to transact is of the plainest and simplest character, and should not be retarded by the hindrances which must of necessity surround the progress of affairs in any large deliberative body. A great change for the better might be effected by the reduction of the number of members of our county councils. This reduction might be brought about by the grouping of township municipalities, or by permitting the reeve only of each municipality to sit in that body. Our village and township councils would on the other hand lose nothing of their efficiency, but might very greatly profit by having the number of their members increased from five to seven. Town councils are in nearly every instance too numerous for any practical good. The same may be said of city councils, with the exception perhaps of London, which lately reduced the number of its Aldermen from twenty-one to twelve. In respect of the property qualification required of councillors in our different municipalities, we think that there should be either an increase all around or a total abolition of the test. The present limit of qualification is, it is said, intended to secure the representation of property. It, however, accomplishes no such purpose, as the lists of returns for most, especially of our large municipalities very clearly shows. We are in favor of a respectable amount of property qualification especially for city councils. But we do not unhesitatingly say that the present test of property qualification fails of its intended purpose, and can accomplish no good object by being maintained. The one year

limit fixed for the term of office is also in our estimation the result of a very erroneous view. The extension of the term to two years would not make the members of municipal councils one whit less amenable to public opinion, as the example of Quebec clearly shows, than they now are. It would, on the contrary, we believe, be a positive improvement, or at least an experiment worth trying.

These are a few crude ideas we now throw out, intending to return to the subject at some future period. There is not likely, in view of an early dissolution, to be any municipal legislation of consequence introduced at this session of the Provincial Parliament. It is, however, well to draw in good time the attention of the public to changes that ought to be pressed during the term of the next legislature of Ontario.

#### DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Three can be no doubt whatever that people in many parts of Ireland are now suffering the very keenest distress. No Land Bill, however liberal and comprehensive its provisions, could relieve the classes thus affected from the pangs of want. The land they hold and till, even if given them free of rent, could not supply them with the necessities of life. They live in the most abject poverty, eking out a sort of vegetative existence on patches of barren and unproductive soil. In the very best years they have little or nothing to sustain life in themselves and families. How many of them contrive to keep year after year body and soul together is simply a mystery. Those who fail to procure employment during the harvest have, every season at the approach of winter no more inviting prospect before them than starvation. Of those who succeed in finding employment, the majority have little to spare after paying the rent extorted from them to provide for the pleasures of heartless landlords and absentees. In a word it may be truly stated that the portions of Ireland from which the cry of distress now comes is never free from destitution of the severest character. On the sea coasts of Connaught, along the mountain ranges of Donegal, in north western and the rocky wastes of Kerry, in south western Ireland the people are the most wretchedly housed, most abjectly fed and clothed of any in Europe. The average Englishman in discussing the question asks why don't these people emigrate? We have ourselves advocated emigration from Ireland as one measure of relief. But if the government, to which the poverty of these poor famine-stricken people is justly to be ascribed, took steps to reclaim the millions of acres of land lying wild and waste in Ireland there would be no necessity of drying them to foreign shores—and holding, as we do, that emigration should be resorted to, in the meantime, to secure some, at least, of these distressed Irish families from the degradation and sufferings of ceaseless want, we maintain that their deportation would not relieve the government of its responsibility in their regard. They cannot be sent to America naked and penniless with any prospect of arriving at competency. The very least the government is bound to do is to provide for their settlement in America or Australia in circumstances and surroundings rendering them safe from want till their industry can supply them with the necessities of life. We hear much from time to time of the flourishing prairies of the American and Canadian north west inviting these afflicted people to find happy homes thereon. If any people in the world can by sobriety and industry succeed in the north west it is assuredly the Irish. But there must be system in their removal to that country of whose climate, mode of tillage and requirements for an independent livelihood they must be ignorant. Let them be provided with a decent habitation, with some of the implements of farming and a pair of oxen and two or three cows and they will not lag behind any other people in the race of life. The government of Canada has pursued a wise and enlightened policy in regard to the Indians of the north west—in providing amongst other things for their instruction in

farming, and their settlement in suitable localities to enable them to win a livelihood by agricultural pursuits. Nobody however pretends to think that the aborigines, however skilled they may become in agriculture, can become as valuable settlers as Europeans or inhabitants of the other Provinces of Canada. In many instances the money expended on their training will be absolutely wasted, but the government should not on that account relax in its noble efforts on behalf of civilization. What the government of Canada does for its Indian population, the government of Great Britain could easily afford to do for the poverty and famine-stricken Irish. Will it do so? From present indications we think not. No effort has yet been made by the British administration to alleviate the sufferings of the people in Connaught, Kerry and Donegal. The Earl of Derby has pronounced himself in favor of the wholesale deportation without conditions of the afflicted Irish. There is no doubt that his views are shared in by a large portion of the British people and by not a few members of the present Cabinet. If these views be acted upon a further course of emigration will be added to the many now existing between and dividing Ireland and England.

#### THE LAND QUESTION IN SCOTLAND.

Ireland is not the only country in the world troubled with a land question. Scotland is similarly afflicted and requires legislation of as radical a character as ever Ireland sought to remove the evils of its land system. There is in Scotland at this very moment an organization known as the "Farmer's Alliance," whose purpose it is to seek legislation which will secure compensation for improvements of a permanent character made by tenants, and give freedom to the latter to farm as they think best. This association, though in principal part composed of Lowland farmers, includes many "tacks-men" of the Highlands. A "tacksman" is one having a "tack" or lease of a large farm, and are distinct from the "crofters" or holders of small farms, who have no leases. The "crofters" have no part in the Farmer's Alliance, the "tacks-men" being their natural enemies, just as the land grabber in Ireland is of the small farmers in that country. But although not forming part of that organization and without any systematic organization of their own, the "crofters" have succeeded in making themselves heard and have had attention drawn to their grievances. The "crofters" in general occupy the very poorest sections of land, which the "tacks-men" would not think it worth the trouble to ask from the landlords. Many years ago, when driven to these unfruitful patches of land, they were granted the privilege of sending their cattle to the neighboring hills, which were really the most valuable part of their holdings. After a time, however, this privilege was withdrawn and the poor "crofters" forced to drag a living out of the sea, fishing in winter for cod and ling, in summer for herring. Their privations were necessarily great. The manner in which they have been dealt with is illustrated by a few striking instances given by a Scottish correspondent to an American paper: "In Glendale, in the extreme west of the Isle of Skye, famous for its scenery and also for sending 10,000 soldiers, 600 captains, 500 pipers, and well on to a hundred majors, colonels and generals to the wars against Napoleon, certain townships were cleared and the people crowded in among the crofters in other townlands, and the cleared lands devoted to sheep. One of the cleared townships, which had been let for years to a Dr. Martin for grazing purposes, was about to be vacant, and the overcrowded tenants put in an offer, or rather a claim to it, as they had become too numerous for what they had. They were trifled with and put off without a definite answer, and, unknown to them, the land was let by the trustees to the factor—to the very man through whom the crofters had applied! They did not know this, but they had a pretty strong hint, for the factor put up a notice, warning them against

trespassing on the shore where they used to land in stormy weather when they could not round a dangerous headland to eastward and make for their own landing. They took the hint, called a meeting, and resolved that they would pay no more rent until they got the land of Waterstein. I cannot afford space for the various incidents of the struggle which has been going on for seven months. The crofters have been served with interdicts and all that, but they have paid no attention, and we hear nothing about the legal proceedings now."

The crofters took proceedings that cannot, in this country or anywhere, justice is prized, be considered extreme. An act of gross injustice was attempted on them. They resisted it and their success so far entitles them to praise.

The next case mentioned is that of Braes, in the large estate of Lord Macdonald. In 1865 Ben Lee, which was held in common by the twenty-nine tenants of the Braes, was actually let to a tacksman by the factor, without their leave being asked and without reduction of rent. From time to time, they demanded restitution, but to no purpose. However, last spring they, like the Glendale people, took a stand; they would pay no more rent until the hill was restored. Sheriff's officers were sent with notices to quit, but the people made the chief officer burn his missives. The factor and his advisers determined to strike terror; so fifty policemen were sent to capture five men. There was a dangerous fight, men and women being badly wounded, and some of the police were sent home wounded also. The five men were prosecuted, but the fines were paid at once by their friends, and on the term day their sheep were on the hill in dispute. They are there still, and in a few days the stock of the tacksman will all be off.

From these instances it is evident that Scotland has a land question and one certain to be discussed widely in the press and on the platform. In their struggle for right against injustice the Scottish crofters will find that they have the sympathy of all the Irish people at home and abroad.

#### THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

After each successive election, wherein the followers of the republican and radical leaders triumph in France, there is everywhere raised a cry of satisfaction and a general indulgence allowed in declarations of belief in the stability of French republican institutions. The frequency and emphasis of these declarations leave them open to suspicion as to the sincerity, if not to the truth of that which they affirm. The republic of France has never, for various reasons, inspired confidence as a solid political edifice, outside certain of the radical groups of Europe, and a portion of the anti-Catholic press there and elsewhere. Amongst Catholics the world over, even those who most ardently admire republican institutions, there has never been any other feeling concerning the republic of France, and that is one of real dread—dread that it is but the harbinger of another internecine conflict in that unhappy country, of which the Communist revolt in 1870 would be in comparison but the merest shadow. The reason of this dread is not far to seek. The republic owes its foundation to men whose avowed principles and course of action could inspire no confidence in lovers of order, religion and morality. They constructed it on a basis opposed to all three. Their legislation has been adverse to order, subversive of religion, utterly destructive of morality. When other nations have seen and decided that religion is the only safeguard of national security the only source of national happiness, France appears to be blinded by some wretched fanaticism which has led its rulers into deplorable acts of folly. Against republican institutions as such, against free institutions of any kind, fairly administered, Catholics have no prejudice. On the contrary, there has ever been amongst the faithful children of the Church a desire and a purpose to secure for themselves and fellowmen the benefits of freedom under every legitimate form of government. The flourishing republics of the middle ages were founded and sustained by Catholic valor, Catholic statesmanship and Catholic enterprise. Even the great republic of America is largely, if not wholly, indebted to Catholic sympathy and support for its establishment. Where, in fact, would the continental army have been but for assistance from friendly Catholic powers? It would have been driven from the field and the contest terminated in the extinction of American freedom. In France the terms republic and republican have a significance far different from that attaching to them elsewhere. Republic means irreligion and disorder; republican, anti-Catholic and anarchist. This may, we can well understand, be taken as a very extreme view. It is, nevertheless, in the light of events in France, within the last few years, quite correct. The acts of the French republican administration are marked by the incoherence of folly. On one occasion we see that administration depriving the normal schools of chaplains, on another deciding that there must be chaplains for the lycées. In other words, we see that government declaring one day in favor of irreligion for those destined to teach the rising generation of Frenchmen, on another pronouncing in favor of religious training for those destined for literal careers. By this action on the part of the government numbers of young men of sound Catholic convictions are deprived of the consolations of religion. But that is not all. Hospitals and prisons are also deprived of the ministrations of religion. The churches have not yet been closed, not through any fault of French radicals, who have fought with might and main to bring about that result. But the republican leaders, as if to satisfy themselves for their inability to meet as yet the views of the radicals in this regard, deprive the unfortunate victims of crime of those ministrations of religion, which can alone assuage suffering and lessen the pains of sorrow and misfortune. The French government appears to have no idea of the effect produced abroad and the real detriment inflicted on the cause of true republican progress by its acts of persecution. The closing of convents, the forcing of cloisters, and the invasion of sanctuaries may appear in the eyes of Frenchmen very small things indeed. But they constitute a very serious breach of religious freedom, and bring into disrepute the government guilty of such outrages. The French republic, as at present constituted, is the adversary of freedom of conscience. Now it is clear that government cannot exist that places itself in antagonism to order and morality. Such a government must perish in obloquy, leaving its deeds to be remembered only with sorrow.

#### A SAD FALL.

An item of news transmitted by cable in reference to the obsequies of Gambetta has very forcibly struck us as the most touching incident connected with the death of that celebrated politician. It is that informing us that the father of the deceased tribune requested that his son might receive religious burial at Nice. This item of news speaks volumes in itself. It speaks of the parental love and care bestowed to no purpose upon one whose talents might have enabled him to render such distinguished services to the cause of good in France. Gambetta's parents brought up their son in the fold of Catholicity. In his infant ear a Christian motto breathed those first lessons of truth and justice which alone can make men great and permanently useful. But he left that fold and soon forgot those teachings, not to become an indifferent son of the Church, but one of its deadliest enemies. He preached war on clericalism—his favorite term for religion. He originated and advocated a systematic persecution of the Church. He sought, in fact, to emancipate Frenchmen from all control of just influences to plunge them into the whirlpool of unbelief. His life was devoted to evil purposes, and it ended as mispent lives should end, in disgrace and bitter humiliation. He perished, as he unfortunately deserved, by the hand of self-created infamy.

#### A NOTABLE CONVERSION.

Not since the conversion of the Marquis of Ripon has there been such commotion amongst sectaries in general as has the reported conversion of Sir Tatton Sykes excited. Amongst Catholics there is always a feeling of quiet satisfaction and thankfulness to God whenever a human soul is rescued from error. This feeling is observable just now. Sir Tatton, if not actually within the Church, will evidently soon be received within its saving fold. The truth is, says the Weekly Register, that Lady Sykes and her little son have already been received into the Church, while Sir Tatton Sykes has also made up his mind to be received, though not with undue haste. We see it stated that according to the new Doomsday-book, Sir Tatton owns a rent-roll of some £36,000 a year in the East Riding of Yorkshire alone. He inherited this magnificent property in 1863; and in 1874 married the elder of Mr. Cavendish Bentinck's two daughters, the lady being his junior by many years.

The splendor of the Mystery of the Incarnation dazzles the understanding, but it inundates the heart with joy. It is the consummation of the designs of God in time. It is the endless subject of admiration and wonder to the angels and saints,—nay, is the source of their beatitude.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The recent hanging of Overdank at Trieste, has caused a great deal of bitterness amongst certain classes in Italy towards Austria. The government of the latter country could not in justice or self-respect pursue any other course. Overdank was a criminal of an unpardonable character, and would if he could have imbedded his hands in the blood of the Emperor Francis Joseph. To have pardoned the wretch were to place a premium on crime. Yet an evidently large section of the Italian people seemingly expected the Austrian sovereign to pursue so injudicious a course. Their disappointment as soon as the execution was finally decided on found vent in angry demonstrations against Austria in Rome, Milan, Turin and elsewhere.

The Republican party in Spain is at present very weak numerically. It has but few spokesmen in the Cortes as shown by the fact that in the Chamber of Deputies a recent Ministerial motion declaring against any change in the Constitution of 1876 was adopted by a vote of 221 to 18. Only the Republican members, we are told, voted against the motion, and the Conservative members of the dynastic Left abstained from voting, being unwilling to show their small numerical strength. It is thought that although the new party obtained greater success in the political debates in the Chamber of Deputies than in the Senate, the Government has not been materially weakened, and therefore no Cabinet changes are expected for the present. Senor Castelar in a late speech maintained the superiority of the democratic system of government, and the incompatibility of monarchy with liberty. He declared that he would never alter his views, and would remain a Republican to the day of his death, and said he believed in the ultimate triumph of his cause.

Mr. John Eaton, in an address before the Union League Club, New York, spoke on "Illiteracy as shown by the Census of 1880." He said that, according to the last census, there were in the United States over 3,200,000 colored persons, over 2,200,000 native whites, and over 7,000,000 foreign-born whites over ten years of age who could not write. Although this represents relatively a gain of 10 per cent. over 1870 in the number who can write, it is an absolute increase of 551,000 in the number who cannot write. Mr. Eaton holds that if the illiterates were all taught to read and write, the value of their labor would be so increased that an increment of wealth amounting to \$488,757,000 a year would be added to the whole country. He added that all the present agencies for grappling with the problem of illiteracy were overtaxed, and that only the general Government could meet the greatness of the present emergency by aiding the States in helping and extending established agencies.

#### ST. PATRICK'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the St. Patrick's Society, held in their rooms, Albion Block, for the purpose of receiving the annual reports and electing officers for the ensuing year, the chair was taken at 8 o'clock by Mr. C. Henry, President, Rev. Father Cornyn, chaplain, and about fifty members being present. The following report was read showing the standing of the society during the past year. Since Jan. 1st, 1882, 41 new members have been admitted and the society was never in a more prosperous condition than at present and is considered one of the strongest (both numerically and financially) belonging to the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union of Canada. On application of the members the Society was incorporated under the general Act, by the Hon. Judge Elliott on 8th May last, which proceedings have placed the Society on a much stronger basis than heretofore. In August last the Convention of the Union was held in Kingston on which occasion the Society was honored by the election of Mr. John M. O'Mara to the Grand Presidency, he acting as delegate at that occasion. During the past year the number of sick members were very small with only one death. The receipts during the year were \$305.36, and the disbursements \$134.65 leaving a balance on hand of \$170.71. The amount of assets to the credit of the society are \$430.50 which together with balance on hand makes the total assets \$605.05. The following are the officers for the current year. President—Mr. Arch. McNeill. 1st vice-President—James Thompson. 2nd " " " Patrick Flannery. Rec. Sec.—C. McCarron. Fin. " " J. Morkin. Treasurer—C. Henry. Chaplain—Rev. Fr. Cornyn. Marshall—Patrick O'Meara. Librarian—Frank O'Neill. Tyler—John Curtin.

(Continued from 1st page.)

May our merciful God then grant you, dearly beloved brethren, the grace to work out your sublime vocation, "for you are a chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people; that you may declare his virtues, who have called you out of darkness into this marvellous light."—(Peter 1.1.p. 9.) Be worthy members of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth that you may be glorified members of his church triumphant in heaven. "Be sober and watch, because you adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour, whom resist the strong in the faith. But the God of all grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will himself perfect you and confirm you and establish you. To him glory and empire, for ever and ever amen."—(St. Peter 1st Ep., v. 9, 10, 11.)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

This pastoral shall be read and commented upon by the clergy the Sundays succeeding its recitation.

Given under our hand and at our episcopal residence, London, on the Feast of St. Thomas Apostle, December 21st, 1882.

+ JOHN WALSH,  
Bishop of London.  
By order of His Lordship,  
JOHN COFFEY,  
Secretary at the

#### CATHOLIC PRESS.

Freeman's Journal.

THERE exists a general complaint among American young men of moderate means that the young women of the present are neither so thrifty, so industrious, so proud of their household skill as their mothers were. The young men of the past, that is becoming more difficult to find, to find a young woman who is willing to start in life as her grandmother's mother started—to undertake the business of household work with a cheerful heart and to help her husband carve his path through the world. The young men lament that she does not long to button up her garments or to reveal the delights of housecleaning untold by a hired girl. It does not seem to have occurred to this pathetic generation that an easy way to secure a household help is to marry the hired girl young men in our time sought the qualification in their wives which grandfathers sought, their compliance might be listened to with patience. They wanted musical talent, but, above all, "style," which their grandfathers cared only for a style of bread making, had great respect for the art of washing, and the musings of the clattering of pots and pans about the time was more than the Moonlight and phony. Now so long as our young men fix their eyes on the ideal, they will be disappointed in the real. They are much. A girl who has been educated, her mother, kept at school until she was almost too old to learn anything at all, and gotten "style," can not reasonably be expected to acquire that capital management which the women of an generation preferred to all the "accomplishments." If a man hopes to find a wife, he ought to seek for a woman in whom where labor is considered honorable. In ours, it is not. Young men who intend to marry ought to remember that the thrift and industry of their grandmothers were the result of thorough training. They were demure by public opinion, the "samplers," as mentally hideous as the modern day mental monstrosities, did not crowd out patchwork quilt, and the useful work where was preferred to the ornamental. When prospective husbands are attracted by the qualities that made their grandmothers and hard-handed grandmothers pleasing to the eyes of their grandfathers, we shall hear less complaints and have fewer attempts to support a shabby existence, and dyspepsia at the time.

Buffalo Union.

It is good as in evil, 'tis the first step to the good. The worst struggle that man has is the one that leads to the entrance on a new and better life. force of habit, the subtle tyrant of human respect, the fear of coming ourselves to a course we shall not like to persevere in—beginning a tower must remain forever unfinished, a monument of our timidity, a by-word of perpetual reproach—are all leagued against us, and the glory of the first step they have all been met, and, at least time prostrated. There will be struggles, but none quite so hard. And the first victory is an earnest of more to come. Hence the importance attached to a good, serious beginning the work of our salvation. In ten years, no less, is the first step the most important. This crossing the beginning of distasteful but necessary work; the prompt attack of the difficulties of an enterprise which morning's strength and courage are hands and heart; the will sternly against all procrastination and prostration, these are what in great make one's fame or fortune, but which many neglect to their after loss and pain. In wrong-doing, too, there is a cant, though mayhap, scarce perceived. No one ever went to the first step. This crossing the Rubicon is not the crime found of consigns its perpetrator to deserved punishment and general execration. made long, long ago, and in some actively slight departure from the rectitude. It began in a temptation resisted, then trifled with, but soon to after a struggle which did but subsequent more grievous transgressions.