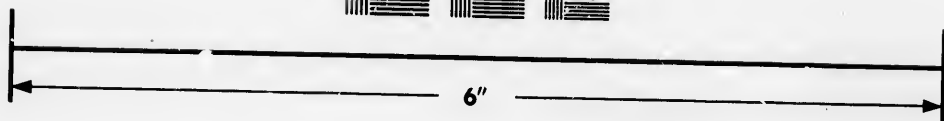
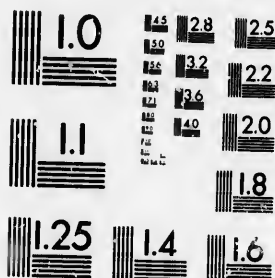
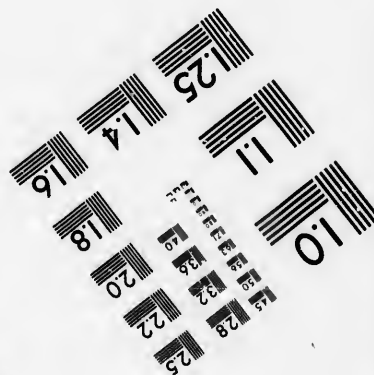


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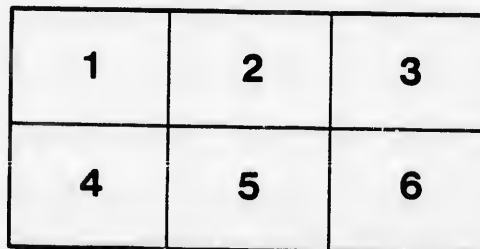
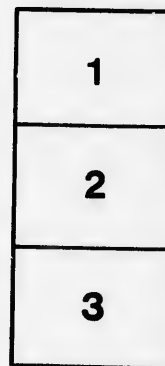
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PRIESTS AND DEATH BED DONATIONS.

THE means resorted to by the Roman Catholic Clergy, but more especially by the Arch-Bishop lately incorporated by an Act of our Legislature under the name of the Arch-Episcopal Corporation, in obtaining possession, for their own benefit, of the property and effects of dying persons induced to leave their families and relatives in want and poverty, is at length arousing the attention of the public and the measures to be adopted in remedying and suppressing an evil so dangerous to society and the peace and welfare of families, are being discussed. In England, or any other enlightened country, such a state of things would not be allowed to exist, and if the parties who were victims to such conduct had not the means of combatting their oppressors, the Public Press of the country would not fail to take up their case and call upon the people to aid and assist them. But, unfortunately, in this country, for reasons but too well known to us all, this is impossible, and the only means left to persons having the misfortune of being so circumstanced, is to throw themselves on the generosity of the most enlightened, liberal and patriotic members of our community and to seek from them that support without which they must remain trodden under foot, despoiled of their means of subsistence, and an already too powerful corporation permanently settled amongst us, the inevitable result of whose policy must be the accumulation of wealth and riches to an enormous extent, and the control over all other authorities in the land, Religion, Government, and Law.

With the view of checking so frightful a calamity and at the same time being placed in a position to establish before the tribunals of the country their claims to justice and protection, the rightful heirs to two estates which, amongst many others, have been lately ingulfed by that Body, have, with the advice of their friends, determined upon making the present appeal for the purpose of collecting, if possible, the amount necessary to enable them to combat so potent an enemy.

One of those heirs is Mr. J. P. M. LECOURT, of this City, Architect and Civil Engineer, whose case is the following. Some time since his Uncle died in one of our country parishes, leaving a large fortune, a part of which he had, for a long time previous, very naturally, expected he would have come in for, having always been on terms of the warmest friendship with his uncle. His surprise and astonishment may be better conceived than described when, on hearing of his death, and proceeding to his residence, he there finds two priests enamped, who with a *sang froid* and assurance quite peculiar to the confraternity, very coolly inform him that his presence there is not at all relished, that he is to get nothing from out of his Uncle's estate, the latter having, by will, left the whole of his property, with a few trifling exceptions, to "*Sa Grandeur*" the Arch-Bishop of Quebec. Mr. Lecourt talks to them about taking possession, which they, of course, laugh at, telling him that *they* have possession and intend keeping it. He protests, which they treat with perfect contempt, and the affair ends by the Holy Corporation walking off with Bags and Boxes crammed with gold and silver coins, Bank Notes, and other valuables exceeding in value, he states, the sum of forty thousand pounds; to say nothing of the plate worth hundreds of pounds, which these despoilers of earthly goods had taken the precaution of carrying off from the house, several months before the old gentleman died, lest it should fall into other, than ecclesiastical, clutches.

Next comes the case of the nephews of that amiable, talented, and universally beloved Clergyman to whom the Irish Catholics of this City and the public of Canada are so deeply indebted for many of the blessings they now enjoy and to whom even the Government owes a debt of gratitude for his independent and manly exertions at a time when the authority of Her Majesty was openly set at defiance and attempted to be wrested from Her; services which cannot soon be forgotten. It may, perhaps, be superfluous to observe that allusion is here made to the late Reverend Mr. McMahon. Every one at all acquainted with the estimation in which this pious and venerated minister of Religion was held by persons of all creeds and denominations and the sources he had at command had he been disposed to hoarding up riches, in preference to alleviating the sufferings of his fellow creatures, must very well know that he had it in his power, had he been so inclined, to have amassed a large fortune. But ever careless of his own comforts, that was not his desire. All he wished was not to leave behind him, in poverty or want, two little Boys, his nephews, residing with him for several years prior to his death, adopted by him, having no one on earth but himself to look to for their subsistence, and whom, by adopting, he felt conscientiously bound to provide for. To this end he bequeaths, by codicil dated the 1st of April last, the interest on the sum of about £1000, he had laid by, together with such amount from off that sum as might be necessary to educate and maintain them until they could provide for themselves, leaving, be it well remembered, whatever would remain of that sum of £1000, after these boys had been settled in life, to the Archiepiscopal Corporation. This, however, the latter think is not enough for their share, and that they ought to gulp up every farthing of the money, interest and capital, and let the orphans shift for themselves. What do they do? On the 1st of October last, two days before the Reverend Gentleman's death, he having expired on the 3rd, and whilst he is in a state of mental and bodily weakness and suffering occasioned by his not having taken any food for weeks before his death, and from other causes—sacerdotal emissaries are dispatched to his residence, in company with a couple of French Canadian Notaries, and he is there, privately, induced to put his signature to another codicil written out in french, revoking *in toto*, the one of the 1st of April last and leaving the sum in question, interest and all, to our Holy friends, without any provision for his nephews, who have, by this barefaced piece of Archi-Episcopal chiselling, been deprived of their little all and left without a home or the means of subsistence—in which state they must remain, unless there is enough generosity left amongst the friends of the late Father McMahon and those persons to whom the present Appeal, is addressed, to rescue them from the outspread Jaws of this gold gutted vulture.

Donations in aid of both the above objects, addressed to Mr. J. P. M. LECOURT, Architect & Civil Engineer, No. 29, Buade Street, Quebec, will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

Quebec, February, 1852.

