

Feb 17/37

My dear Gladstone,

I have often intended to write to you, but the usual hindrances, & delays have until now prevented me.

The plot begins to thicken so rapidly that, I cannot delay longer. I only wish I had time, & that you had patience for all I should like to say about the past & present measures of this Govt, as affecting either directly, or even the Church of Christ in England. I don't refer to the Irish bills, which are palpable attacks, but to the silent, incidental working of such bills as the Poor Law & Workhouses without Chaplains, a Chaplain too far off for ministerial responsibility. Service in unconsecrated places, the Eucharist without altar, or even a presiding table, Baptism

at the hands of a layman, a infants dying
unbaptized, these and many more unthought
of ~~of~~ irreverences & obstructions to the Church
& ministry silently alienate mens mind from
her ordinances, & familiarize them to execration.
Does not the Marriage & Resp^{ts} Bill help
forward this alienation? Altho I believe
some such bill unavoidable in a land
at least one half schismatical, or apostate.
And what shall I say to you abt the Ca-
thedral matter? If I knew your thoughts,
as I fancy I may, I should say more
boldly that, I think it the deepest wound
as yet inflicted upon the faith of posterity.
Further present all is delightful. We shall have fine
tabular exhibitions bound in blue paper, of small
Gospel, augmented, sinners abolished, no more
John Bull, a Lad fieldrod. And our practical
men will exult with a joy truly American over
the trimness of our 74's cut down into frigates.
And if we ask - why were they cut down? were
the ships bad? we are told, oh, no but the

Crews were And who is henceforth to shield the
faith? In days when every heresy, from the time
of Arius, is abroad with a thousand forms of schism
& apostasy unknown even to the heresimachs of old?
The parochial clergy, I speak from a painful sense
of my own deficiencies, and absolute inability to
find time, & means to supply them. The parochial
clergy cannot turn Theologians - they are not
set to defend the faith objectively, but to spread
it subjectively amongst their several flocks. We
do not heat the olive oil, we buy it at our
universities, & Cathedrals, & set them the lamps,
& feed the wick. Both we cannot do. And
if they fail we burn dim, & the first blast
will leave us in darkness. Let any man read only
the Hon Observer, & the Record, & see what need
we have of men whose sole inexorable labour
shall be to watch, & crush the plagues of lies
concocted, & propagated, which are breathed over the whole
land. And if the Record lays upon this burden,
what shall the Patriot do? If within the Church
we have such dangers to meet, what shall suffice
for all the outward brunt of Schism, heresy, & lying?
Our Cathedrals are ready-made to our hands for the following
purpose - to collect a council of chief presbyters round

the Bishop, to keep up a daily witness of devotion, to afford absolute sincere leisure for sacred learning, to form diocesan universities for Candidates for Holy Orders - The town parishes being normal schools for parochial ministers. The laymen of the Diocese might also partake the benefit of good Ecclesiastical education - i.e. such laymen, as cannot afford a Comb of. Thus they might be the heart of the Diocese. ~~From~~ ^{From} which truth, speculation, & practical, civil, & Ecclesiastical; & ripe affections, & attachments might continually issue & combine the whole clergy, & laity of a diocese in all their several positions from the lowest to the highest, round one common centre - But all this is, I fear, gone by - Men are pleased too far, to turn back & realize so blessed a thing, of which they had before no conception. But of this I have not time to write more now, nor perhaps have I anytime to read.

When one more question - & that is are you willing to present, & in presenting to support the prayer of a petition not only by clergy, also approve the Poor L. & a but from intimate local knowledge see, & are ready to prove cases of maladministration. The question I am one, consider that the law has

been applied with haste, inconsistency, & in
admixing indiscriminate way, producing
many grievous cases of undercovered suffering
wholly at variance with the original inten-
tion, & profemin of the Legislature. I pro-
mise that, it shall be very temperately waded;
and my specific in its favour for a relaxa-
tion in certain defined points. Let me know
how you stand disposed, & I will write to you
again.

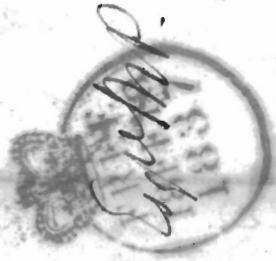
I saw you were at Glasgow, a promise
I call it was; & above all a fine sample of Sir
R.P. But how did you like his coquetting
with Presbytery? Alas - Alas -

I hope you are quite well in health, &
fully able to meet the late night, & labours
of the Reform. Believe me, my dear friend,
Yours most sincerely,
Henry S. Manning.

Febr. 17th

7.17/37

H. S. Manning



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