

Sept. 21/37

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My dear Gladstone,

Most sincerely do I thank you for your last affectionate letter, in which there is only one point I can bear now to speak of, and that is the consolation to be drawn from knowing that the end of life is not happiness but usefulness. God has indeed taught me this by a keen discipline, and I am sure I shall not be without your prayers that I may learn it well, & yield myself up in answer to His dispensation.

I have been now for some time intending to write to you, and to open again the question we wrote about some months ago. I have been looking more closely into it, and am more than ever convinced that, nothing but the firm, & faithful resistance of the Church at the ebb of opportunities can preserve her from being stripped of her Apostolical au-

thing, and reduced to a mere creature of the
State. I remember your saying that, you thought
all our efforts against the project of the re-
stitution of an Ecclesiastical Government. Now
how shall we proceed? Convocation would be our
aim, being modelled on Parliament, & giving
assumed powers to Bishops, & tying up the
Episcopate. By suffering the Church to act
in Convocation we should give a semblance of
Ecclesiastical Government, & destroy the reality of the
apostolical regimen. What then is the
done? The 25 of H VIII, says: the clergy were
forbidden to make canons in their Convoc: without the
King's licence, provided for the appointment of 32
persons to draw up an Ecclesiastical Code. They did so
and the result was the Reformation of the Ecclesiastical
in wh: the 18th clause provides for the restriction
of Provincial Councils. "De Synodis: Si conti-
gerit in Ecclesia gravem aliquando exoriri causam
que sine multorum consilio Episcoporum haud
facile possit finire, tunc Archiepiscopus, ad cuius
provinciam ea causa pertinet, suorum Episcopos ad

provinciale concilium evocabit - (sickness the only
excuse, & proxy the duty) ... who ^{"de legi"} shall give
tractabuntur pro se respondet, et definit. (There-
fore the councils are not only judicial, but
deliberative) Verum concilia hae provincialia
sine nostra voluntate ac jussu nunquam con-
vocentur". So that the submissⁿ of the Clergy
& the Provincial Councils are provided for by
one, & the same proceeding - But the
Reformat. & ell: having been dropped the whole
is imperfect.

Now then seems to be the best basis: that
the Crown sh^d direct the Abp to call a
Provincial Council of His Suffragans, and that
the whole map of legislative recommendⁿ be
before the Reclerimental! perpetual!! Capitalini!!!
sh^d be laid before them - How the inferior
clergy, & the laity may be admitted to de-
liberate, suggest a sanction, I leave for wiser
judgments than mine - but of this I am sure
that every Bishop in the Confession now is
ἀλλοτερο επισκοπος.

Synods & councils have been exchanged for

Convocation, Convocation for a Commission
Royal, & Temporary; & then for a Corpora-
tion perpetual, & Parliamentary - & where
shall this end? In an arbitrary vote of
Parliament without so much as the semblance
of consulting the Apostolical Rules of
Christ's Church.

Now we are just at an ebb of the tide -
The Ch: Rate Bill - & the opposite of the
Abp: and the suspended animation of
the Eccl: Commissioners give us time, &
a turn in the question which if seized
may bring us through: if lost, I see, nothing
before us but a rapid secularization, which
will cast out the Catholic portions of the
Church, and Socinianize the Caput mor-
tuum.

I am most anxious to know your mind
about them. What you advise - how far you
will go. What proximate steps must be ta-
ken in a out of Parliament, by clergy, &
laymen. I should greatly regret to see the

energies of the Church wasted by disunion. But we can do nothing unless there is in Parliament a body, or a man to indicate the state, and object of the Church -

We are moving in this archdeaconry an address to be presented to the Abp by the Proctor in behalf of the clergy, praying him not to act further under the Bill of last year - You shall have one of the first proofs - I did most truly thank you for your judgment & suggestions about it - At present it is kept private, so that it wd be well not to communicate it to anyone, unless you think you can forward the object of it.

I intend to be in London at the opening of Parliament, and should exceedingly wish to see you on this subject. It is in vain to write, or speak, or address, or protest - some well weighed measure must be prepared, and some immediate acts taken without delay. Tell me when you write

whether you think them Eccl: Copiers
can be arrested, & if so, how -

Hoping I may soon hear you are well
& strong, & preparing for your work in
Parliament, believe me, my dear Gladstone

Yours affectionately

A. S. Manning.

Livington

Sept. 21. 1837.

S. 21.
A. S. Manning.