March 17. 1884

My dear Child

I well remember the effect of Southey’s book on my own mind fifty years ago: & do not wonder [?] at its effect on you. I am not sorry that you have to go through it, for I believe you will soon see that it may all be said equally of Christianity: and that it in no way touches either Christianity or the Catholic Faith. It can destroy [?]

The Church has never had any share in the sins of its members. It is [ . . .] the light which falls upon all the rottenness of the earth but is never harmed by it.

Read over my last letters again.

The Church is the mystical Body of Christ having a Divine Head in heaven, and inhabited [ . . .] Holy Ghost the Illuminator & Sanctifier of mankind.

How can this be affected by the portion [?] in sins of men! Read the 1st, 2nd & IV chapters to the Ephesians

No, I mean you to see this Truth as clearly as I do often. I will [ . . .] you with my flock. You belong to [ . . .] already in heaven; and you will altogether.

God be with you. Always yours

[ . . .]

H.E.C.A.

[Transcription developed by Paul DeGeorge]

[Transcription edited by Jared Beverly]