MANNING (H.E., 1803-1892) Cardinal,


A particularly interesting letter written shortly before he resigned his archdeaconry of Chichester as a prelude to joining the Church of Rome, and referring to the judgment of the Crown (in the recent Gorham case) which was the cause of his doing so.

"... If Mr. Barton had communicated to me in private the letter he has sent to the papers I would gladly have written to say that I fear I could at no time have agreed in the extract he makes from his work.

My letter to the Bishop of Chichester he probably has not seen or read. I intended it to be a public declaration of the grounds on which communion with the Church of England is, in my conscience, lawful. I believe the Royal Supremacy as by Statute, & the late Judgment to be at variance with the Will & the Truth of our Blessed Lord. And I hold myself bound to resign my charge if the Church of England shall acquiesce in them. I shall then feel that the Church of England has put me from her.

I think it is not well for men to dwell on such events until they are morally certain, still less on the consequences which follow upon necessity."
Dr. [name] had communicated to me in private that the letter he had sent to the [person] could only have been written to say that I fear I could at no time have agreed in the extract he makes from his work.

My letter to the Bishop of [place] was probably heard but not read. I intended it to be a public declaration of the grounds on which communion with the Church of England is, in my conscience, lawful.

I believe the Royal Refrains of the late Prince, in the late Judy, went to bed at 11 o'clock, he being quite well.

The will of the people of our Stapleford. And I hold myself bound to resign my charge of the Church of Eng.

And shall acquire in them. I shall then find that the Church of England has put me from her.

I think it not well to dwell on such events until they are morally certain. But in the consequences which
follow upon necessity.

Believe me, with my thanks,
My dear Sir,

Yours very truly

H. E. Manning

The Revd
Arthur Baker