

CUS417/125.121/2

Hibernia Magna and the Irish Question.

To His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons:

Dear Cardinal,

Claiming the privilege of an old friend, and for many years your next-door neighbour, may I address you an open letter on a subject that I know you have at heart - the an Irish settlement. We have lived long enough to see what seemed a desperate Irish problem solved. In my boyhood in Canada there were ^{two} red letter days - March 17th and July 12th. We were sure of a holiday and a good row between Orange and Green. Time and prosperity have brought a settlement. Where ^{is} ~~is~~ Griffin-town that I knew so well in the ^{Seventies} 70 ties in Montreal - filled with the families of the Irish emigrants, many of whom were my earliest patients? Already the intelligence and industry of the children has made comfortable homes for the old people. They ~~Irish~~ have long ago ~~left~~ Griffin-town and are in the best quarters of the

city and the suburbs. This is what has happened all over the
 Continent and with it peace - a row anywhere on St. Patrick's Day
 er on the 13th July is impossible. Time and prosperity have
 which have wiped out the animosities of 200 years in the New
 World, may be trusted to do the same in Ireland itself. ^{To} One
 basic consideration I wish to urge your earnest attention for no
 man in the United States we wields the same personal influence
 as Your Eminence. It is this - that the settlement no longer
 rests with England - nor is it with Ireland, but it is with
 Hibernia Magna, with the Irish in the United States. They
 control the situation. It is not so much now that they pay the
 piper ^{and} call the tune, but the moral force is the telling
 leverage to-day. The main truth is that the Irish in the
 United States demand an independent republic. Grt. Britain
 could no more ~~tolerate~~ tolerate a hostile republic at her doors
 than ^{would} the United States tolerate a ^{hostile} kingdom in Texas ~~and~~
 (illegible) in Canada or in Cuba. It would mean the break ^{up}
 of an empire the strength of which is the most important single
 ally of the United States in the maintenance of a threatened
 civilization. And what possible good of such a settlement
 which leaves Ireland unsettled with her own bitter problem of a
 million or more of her children hostile and ready to go to the
 extremes of civil war. Please throw the weight of your strong
 influence in favour of a direct repudiation by Irishmen of an
 Irish republic as an essential preliminary to any abiding
 enduring settlement. ^{etc.} Time will A-Federal devolution dominion lines offers

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