

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.I.

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PRICE ONE PENNY.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,  
We know the gifts ye gave and give;  
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,  
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

## THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE BILL.

BY AGNES MOTT.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Bill which at the present moment has reached the final stages in the House of Lords is stated to be an Act to make further provision for the health of mothers and young children.

The main provisions of the Act are as follows:—

*Clause 1.* Local authorities *may* make such arrangements as are sanctioned by the Local Government Board for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age.

*Clause 2a.* Every Council (municipal) in England and Wales *shall* establish a Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, two-thirds of whose members shall be members of the Council,

(b) One third of the members *may* be co-opted from those who are specially qualified by training or experience in subjects relating to health and maternity,

(c) Two members of the Committee *shall* be women,

(d) All matters relating to the exercise of the powers of the Council under this Act or under the Notification of Births (Extension) Act *shall* stand referred to this Committee.

*Clause 3* relates to financial arrangements.

*Clause 4* empowers the Councils to provide and maintain institutions in connection with the care of maternity and infancy.

*Clause 5* exempts Scotland and Ireland from the Act with the exception of Clause 4.

The only compulsory clause in the Bill and by far the most important one, is Clause 2, which relates to the formation of Maternity and Child Welfare Committees. The work of these Committees will be the supervision of Health Visitors and Infant Welfare Centres, together with the direction of any other

developments which may arise in connection with the care of maternity and infancy. These powers have already been exercised by Scotland and Ireland, where these provisions have been in force for some time past.

The Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, which made early notification of births compulsory, provided a system of health visiting under the local health authorities which was supplemented by voluntary bodies providing Infant Welfare Centres where medical and hygienic advice was given to working-mothers. In order to encourage the growth of these institutions, the Local Government Board awarded a grant of 50 per cent. towards the expenses of maintenance. The establishment of Maternity and Child Welfare Committees is an attempt to bring these voluntary societies under municipal control with the view to their absorption by the State at a later period.

In regard to the constitution of Maternity and Child Welfare Committees it may be noted that it is optional for the members to possess any special knowledge of the hygiene of maternity and infancy. The vigour with which certain M.P.'s fought for the inclusion of *two women members* on the Committee was really delicious and it may interest the readers of this paper to know that Mr. Herbert Samuel and Mr. Hayes Fisher covered themselves with glory as valiant champions of the women's cause, in introducing the amendment which made the addition of two women on the Committee compulsory. These women members need not however be working mothers or be especially acquainted with the problems of the care of maternity. An amendment to secure the inclusion of a certified midwife was rejected in spite of the fact that



midwives attend 90 per cent. of the confinements amongst the poor mothers and are qualified to give expert advice upon the subject. A similar motion to obtain the representation of District nurses was defeated although it is well known that the latter spend a large proportion of their time in serving the needs of mothers and children of the poorer classes. It is scandalous that in the 20th century, a Committee should be chosen to look after the needs of maternity which is to be almost entirely composed of men, who are unlikely to understand the question in the least and who are in all probability serving upon the District Council with the chief aim of fostering the particular trade or business with which they are concerned. Certain it is that local Councillors frequently protect slumlandlords instead of proceeding against them in regard to the insanitary condition of their premises. Yet this is one of the primary causes of Infant Mortality and one which intimately affects Maternity and Child Welfare.

The only opposition the Bill encountered was from those advocates of a Ministry of Health who desire to see Maternity and Child Welfare under the control of a Central authority which should have as its nucleus the National Health Insurance Commission. These critics said that the Local Government Board had been in labour and had brought forth a mouse, namely, the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill, which they contemptuously alluded to as the 'little Maternity Bill.' On the other hand the supporters of the Bill stated that the local health authorities could save a 1,000 infants' lives per week which were being lost to the Nation through lack of the administrative powers contained in this Bill. Sir Arthur Newsholme, Medical Officer to the Local Government Board was cited as being responsible for the statement, but what he actually said was: "that, if we produced improved housing and sanitary conditions with other arrangements for the care of maternity, the Infant Death rate could, he believed, in the course of a few years be reduced by one half." Now it is perfectly true that half a million lives per annum are lost in infancy, but the claim that Maternity and Child Welfare Committees will 'ipso facto' remedy this evil is palpably false and absurd. Sir

Arthur Newsholme in stating his opinion gave priority to the necessity of improving housing conditions if any extensive reduction in the rate of Infant Mortality is to be attained, but there is no mention of housing conditions in the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill. Unfortunately, to some minds legislation is a panacea for all ills and it is only necessary to frame a Bill for the protection of infant life, and hey presto! a 1,000 lives per week will be saved to the Nation! No consideration is given as to how this is to be effected or whether any material improvements require to be made in the environment of the people. It is quite sufficient to tell the local health authorities that they may attend to the health of expectant and nursing mothers. As to what the expectant and nursing mothers think of this large handed proposal no one cares a rap! No one has dreamt of consulting the working mother as to her opinion on the matter, nor did it occur to any M.P. in the House to represent her views. All that the politicians care about 'Maternity and Child Welfare' is what particular clique will have control of the administration connected with it. The Local Government Board and the National Health Insurance Commission have been squabbling the last two years about their rival schemes of 'Maternity and Child Welfare,' which each wants to grab for itself. Each is striving to be top-dog in the coming Ministry of Health, when a complete system for the medical supervision of the working mother will be established. Pending the settlement of their disputes the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill has been put forward as a useful preliminary step in the inauguration of the State Control of the Family.

Poor working mothers! Does any one understand that they are human beings with souls? or are they just machines to be kept in good working order by our Capitalistic State for the sole purpose of reproducing the Race? That—at any rate—seems to be the attitude of many of our administrators! The improved health of infancy they consider would lead to the greater efficiency of the worker and would thus increase the output of our factories and the incomes of our manufacturers. This is the secret of the 'booming' of Child Welfare by our 'business'

*Continued on page 65.*

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The legal advisers of the Crown having decided against the claims of women to be members of Parliament, the Labour Party will press the Government to introduce a Bill to remove the disability. It should be a simple matter, and will not, we think, meet with great opposition.

The Labour Party has indeed fully realised the change brought about by the war in the position of women. At their Conference in June the following resolutions concerning women were carried without opposition:—

That the Conference holds that the changes in the position of women during the war, in which they have rendered such good service, and the importance of securing to women as to men the fullest possible opportunities for individual development, make it necessary to pay special attention in the reconstruction programme to matters affecting women; and, in particular, the Conference affirms—

A.—WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRY ON DEMOBILISATION:—

(i.) That work or maintenance at fair rates should be provided for all women displaced from their employment to make way for men returning from service with the forces or other national work.

(ii.) That full inquiry should be made into trades and processes previously held to be unhealthy or in any way unsuitable for women, but now being carried on by them, with a view to making recommendations as to the conditions of their further employment in such trades.

(iii.) That all women employed in trades formerly closed to them should only continue to be so employed at Trade Union rates of wages.

(iv.) That Trade Unions should be urged to accept women members in all trades in which they are employed.

(v.) That the principle of "equal pay for equal work" should be everywhere adopted.

B.—WITH REGARD TO CIVIC RIGHTS:—

(i.) That all legal restrictions on the entry of women to the professions on the same conditions as men should be abrogated.

(ii.) That women should have all franchises, and be eligible for election to all public bodies (including Parliament), on the same conditions as men.

(iii.) That systematic provision should be made for the inclusion of women in Committees or Commissions, national or local, dealing with any subjects that are not of exclusively masculine interest.

(iv.) That the present unjust provision of the income tax law, under which the married woman is not treated as an independent human being, even in respect of her own property or earnings, must be at once repealed.

In Clause (v.) of Section A., the words "equal work" were changed to "for similar duties," an amendment moved by the National Union of Clerks.

Under the new Constitution, four places on the Executive are to be filled by women. The candidates elected were: Mrs. Philip Snowden, Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Harrison Bell and Dr. Ethel Bentham.

\* \* \*

At a Conference of Women's organizations, convened by the "Consultative Committee," eighteen societies, of which we were one, signed a resolution of protest against 40D., D.O.R.A., demanding its immediate withdrawal. The resolution was forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Minister for War, the members of the War Cabinet, and the clerical members of the War Office Conference on Venereal Disease in relation to the Army. There are no women on this latter conference, nevertheless Mr. Macpherson considers that all views are represented. We do not, but we quite understand why Mr. Macpherson does not desire the presence of women, for they are not likely to compromise on this question and would be awkward to deal with. We have also received a resolution of protest against 40D, passed at a meeting of representative Free Church men and women.

\* \* \*

We have followed with sympathy and admiration the spirited stand of the women teachers to obtain fair conditions. The teachers being unable to make the L.C.C. listen to reason, gave notice that they would strike, the time being fixed for August 26th, after the holidays. A great demonstration was held in Trafalgar Square on July 20th. The strike would have affected about 1,200 schools and over 12,000 teachers. As reported in the "Daily News," a member of the Executive of the National Federation of Women Teachers said that they had supported the men consistently in their demands, but the latter had badly let them down all along the line. In face of the teachers' determination the L.C.C. has decided to pay a war bonus of 15/- per week. The claim for a revision of the permanent scale of salaries can come later, the teachers having stipulated that their acceptance of the war bonus should not prejudice their case. We congratulate the teachers on this success, they have provided a splendid example of the new spirit of enfranchised women.



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## SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE.

A reviewer of Dr. Margaret Todd's life of Sophia Jex-Blake (Macmillan, 18/-) suggests that it is too long, that there are too many letters, due to the fact that in her labour of love Dr. Todd has not found it in her heart to prune. But the letters will be precious to many besides Dr. Todd, for surely there is no better way of studying a great personality than by dwelling on these outpourings of a frank nature addressed, without any thought of publication, to her parents and intimate friends. Those who read the life with care will be well repaid, for the character of the valiant pioneer, who threw open the doors of the medical profession to women, was worth studying.

The book, too, gives us a picture of the stifling atmosphere in which girls of the Victorian Age were brought up, and the many obstacles which hampered them in their development. Sophia Jex-Blake was born out of her time, and the narrow "Evangelical" piety of her parents and governesses must have added not a little to the troubles of her childhood. For she was a wilful and turbulent child, and her elders took a morbid interest in her soul. As a matter of fact her soul was clean and pure enough, but her high spirits needed an outlet, and that was about the extent of her wickedness. It is remarkable that such a surfeit of sermonizing did not turn her altogether against religion, but she remained to the end deeply interested in religion, ever seeking to know and eager

to perform the will of God. Nor did the sermons embitter her relations with her parents, her devotion to them was out of the common, and the friendship between the mother and daughter especially "was a sacred thing never flagging, comparable with the most beautiful friendships in history." Yet in Sophia's childhood her mother was often too ailing to have her exuberant little daughter with her.

A great part of the book is taken up with the great fight at Edinburgh—the "septem contra Edinam"—for the admission of women as medical students. When Sophia Jex-Blake left Boston hurriedly to hasten to her dying father, her friend, Dr. Lucy Sewall, prophesied that she would open the medical profession to English women, and the prophecy was realised after a long and bitter fight. The story has been told before, but it bears repeating. There is a certain type of man who meets any prospect of progress in the position of women with fierce antagonism. I was going to say that the antagonism is difficult to understand, but perhaps, after all, it is not. In any case the medical students found full scope for displaying their antagonism, and the story is not a pretty one. There was, however, a bright side to it, and not the least was the conduct of the Irish students in their protection of the women, and the chivalrous championship of their cause by certain professors.

A life was not much, said O'Halloran, the "mighty chief" of the Irish Brigade, but all the Irishmen would lay down theirs before the women came to harm.

It is humorous to note that in a letter from Professor Playfair, approving the claims of women, he quotes "Pope" Joan as a precedent for a woman graduating, although, as he says, she donned male attire for the purpose. The legend of this woman pope dies hard, for it is only recently that a clergyman's wife suggested that it would greatly forward the woman's cause (she did not, of course, know the story) if the C.W.S.S. would publish a pamphlet on this same disreputable, fortunately fictitious, personage.

The spirit which opposed Sophia and her colleagues was still alive in 1914—is it really dead?—it was that spirit which prompted the reply, "Go home, dear Madam," when Dr. Elsie Inglis offered her services to her country on the outbreak of war.

But the women had good friends, and one notes gladly that the leading newspapers were on their side. Indeed the "Spectator" rebuked them for making concessions to English prudery on the point of separate classes. "The only safe ground for them to stand on is that science is of no sex and cannot be indelicate unless made so of malice prepense, and that by the very conditions of the profession the modesty of ignorance must be replaced by the modesty of pure intent."

We catch glimpses throughout the book of other pioneers, such as Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Dr. Garrett Anderson, Dr. Agnes McLaren, one of our earliest members, and Miss Octavia Hill.

Dr. Jex-Blake can never have been easy to deal with, she was an uncompromising fighter, but her energy and determination counterbalanced a possible deficiency in tact. Such a lover of liberty was naturally a keen suffragist. She was overflowing with energy, vitality and generous affection, and we are grateful to Dr. Todd for making this noble woman live again in her pages.

When she died, in 1912, the "Pall Mall Gazette" said, with much truth: "Since the death of Florence Nightingale no woman has died of whom more truly may it be written, Bene actæ vitæ recordatio jucundissima est."

L. DE ALBERTI.

## LONDON AND BRANCH NOTES.

Holy Mass will be offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, at 10-30 on Sunday, September 1st, for the intentions of the Society.

HASTINGS, ST. LEONARD'S AND BEXHILL BRANCH.—A Drawing-room Meeting was held on Thursday, July 18th, at Warrior Gardens, St. Leonard's, by kind invitation of Miss A. H. Bennett, of the Brighton Branch, who is staying at St. Leonard's for a short time. After an interesting and helpful address from Miss Bennett, the Hon. Secretary made a report as to the position of the Branch, and the meeting then discussed the subject of Regulation D.40. The following Resolution was carried unanimously, and the Hon. Secretary was requested to send copies to H.E. Cardinal Bourne, the Prime Minister and the Secretary for War.

Resolution:—"That this meeting of the Hastings, St. Leonard's and Bexhill Branch of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society protests against Regulation 40.D. of the Defence of the Realm Act, first, because of its injustice to women; second, because it will tend to increase immorality; and third, because it will prove ineffective in preventing the spread of disease. Therefore this meeting demands its immediate withdrawal."

Some of our members also attended a public meeting of protest against the Regulation, organised the same week by the Freedom League and addressed by Miss Underwood, when a similar Resolution was carried *Nem. Con.*

In last month's report from this Branch there was an error in the statement that two of its members had been elected to the Council of the W.C.A., only one being in fact elected.

## REVIEWS.

A LITTLE BOOK OF POLISH SAINTS. By Christopher St. John, with a Foreword by Father Cyril Martindale, S.J. (Burns and Oates, 2s. net.)

Miss St. John has written this touching little book in the hope "that Catholics in England may be moved by the story of the Saints of Poland to a more vivid realisation of the special claim that the Poles have on their fraternal love." Indeed it would be difficult to exaggerate Poland's claims to the gratitude of those who know the value of the Faith. For centuries she was the rampart against barbarism, and Catholicism owes her a debt which it is to be feared Catholics have forgotten. At Versailles recently the Prime Ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy agreed that the creation of a united and independent Polish State was one of the conditions of a solid and just peace. Poland has never lost the hope of regaining her independence. Miss St. John's book should remind Catholics that prayer can hasten the day of her deliverance.

## II. SUFFRAGIO FEMMINILE.

In this pamphlet, which comes to us from Milan, Dr. Margherita Ancona reviews the position of the suffrage question in Italy, showing that anti-suffragist arguments as to the natural disabilities of women have been abolished by war, and the feminists vindicated. She pleads that as the question has passed beyond the academic stage into the sphere of practical politics, it should be dealt with. For when the time comes to reconstruct Italy and the world, after the war, it would be a betrayal of the nation's cause, and the cause of humanity, to reject the help of half the population.



## CLIQUE.

Now that woman has her vote I think two things should be totally abolished—and not only completely, but immediately and irrevocably—that antagonism in letters and speech between the two sexes and the permitted existence of cliques. It is surely time that such antagonism should be deemed prehistoric. There is no gainsaying that the hateful tendency to keep up the everlasting comparison between the respective merits of the man and woman, that injurious spirit of rivalry in all discussions on power and action has not ceased. Let the question drop out like the waste water in the gargoyles. When questions are mooted of national importance, let us take our stand by the side of the men, not in the opposite rank—it would make for much in this world of dispute and chaos. Let us at least “stand silent upon a Peak in Darien” and survey our new world.

What I am specially going to speak about now is the prevailing pressure of the clique system—it enervates and straightens, and militates against the newborn freedom of women. One would think that *now* such things were impossible did one not meet the evil at every turn. The spirit of ostracism impregnates so much of our public life, and when this is so, it is bound to influence and creep into family life—nay into the very closest human ties and relations—for do we not find that partiality and favouritism are descendants of the oligarchy and exclusion of Patrician times.

There is not a League, a Society, a Committee, an Institution, a charitable foundation, but you will find that this clique system is poisoning the good, or at any rate, preventing the entire possible good. It is nauseous if only as being a testimony to the poverty of human nature, that cannot rise above itself, but is so petty in its evidence of jealousy and *preserve* making. This seems the great root of the problem—the desire for private preserves—the nest-making of certain individuals, in spite of large areas for action.

There is more in the evil of cliques than many imagine. Clubs are ruined by that hateful, small-minded cabal which one inevitably meets. A celebrated writer in a Club said to me the other day, “Oh they have it all their

own way, a certain set keep all in their hands.”

There is a spirit of mean pride, of want of common charity, even of honesty, for it is a spirit of keeping others away from their rights. There is that artificial foundation which crumbles away when put to the test, for the spirit reminds one of the early Victorian maiden society who, aloof, looked down on their worthier neighbours, whilst they themselves were the puny and mean.

I think the abolition of cliques would be one of the happiest factors in the new society now the Vote has been given; it would show our superiority in public spirit, our courage in purifying the old leaven, and our far-sighted charity, which should be a woman's badge and staff—it would show that immunity from the solecisms of the days of long ago when we picked up our skirts and held in our sleeves—the blinker days of small events and minute views.

I am convinced it will take some time before we eliminate this propensity to *hoard* advantage, for the world is seamed with it, and the suffering ensuing is very great. One knows of vast projects and good works being crippled by cliques and like the fenced-in grass and wood of eternal growth—absolutely spoilt with the Tom Tiddlers of organised cabal.

Who does not know the old *Punch* pictures, where the monocled Colonel, or longnetted Madam inspects at an airy distance, a newcomer to the village or the entry of a family into the drawing-room where *they* ruled—the cruelty of it was so refined—it is no more stingful than this clique avoidance by negation in the literary, social, political, ecclesiastical centres of to-day.

After all the wonderful works of men and women during this awful war, it is indeed a matter of earnest hope that in all grades and ranks the spirit of comradeship, and the wider outlook of the coming future of England, there will be an almost impossibility of cliques and cabals, and that instead there will be an all-embracing welcome, not a specialised monopoly, to every new and inspiring element.

It is surely obvious that amalgamation and not isolation begets work. Why were the old

Guilds established in the Middle Ages? Chesterton tells you in his delightful “Short History of England”: “Most work was guarded by the *egalitarian* vigilance of the Guilds.” They were for the protection of property, but then *each* one had his rights protected—welded, blended, united the system was.

Religion even is not free from this abominable system—even in confraternities or closest dealings in the service of the Altar, one gets the signs, and unmistakable ones, of the cliques, and here there is a hopelessness more penetrating when it exists therein, for blended with it you get that self-justification begotten of piety, and what greater anomaly could there be than these parish erring devotees?

No stronger influence could be brought to destroy it than the very spirit of the Gospel they are living. “I will draw *all* hearts to Me.”

EDITH PEARSON.

*Continued from Front page.*

politicians;—eugenic proposals are hailed by them with open arms as a means of ‘weeding out the unfit,’ whilst medical supervision is regarded as a valuable piece of machinery for securing a uniform standard of physique. Maternity and Child Welfare Committees are regarded as excellent bodies because they will secure the proper supervision of the working mother in the rearing of her children so that no mistake may be made in producing them according to the required pattern. Now what is the attitude of the working mother in regard to these schemes? She is the important person and in the wrangle of politicians as to the welfare of her family she seems to have been completely overlooked. Well—first of all—the most elementary fact is that a working-class mother *is* a mother and like a tigress with her cubs, obeys natural instincts by resenting all interference with her young. She is instinctively jealous of State interference and frequently remarks that ‘you can't call your children your own nowadays.’

Poor mothers resent the assumption that they are unfit to take charge of their own children without State supervision and they regard it as unfair that this supervision is sole-

ly confined to their class. It is they who bear the children and toil and suffer for them, and it is they who best know their needs. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committees they will regard as yet another body with powers to inspect them and to dictate to them how they shall bring up their families whilst the rich remain free agents and can do as they please. They are harassed with the multitude of inspectors and they are overwhelmed with advice as to how they must bring up their children, but scarcely nothing is ever done by the authorities to give them proper housing accommodation or to increase the scanty wage-income which they receive. Yet these are vital necessities in the rearing of a healthy family without which all efforts to promote Maternity and Child Welfare are doomed.

A “Catholic Citizen” writes from Belfast that 40D. has been put into operation in that town, the woman receiving 6 months hard labour. Protest meetings are being held, and measures of arousing public opinion against this unjust regulation are being considered.

\* \* \*

The Vicar of Stainton-cum-Hellaby writes:—“As an old supporter of the Woman's Movement, I venture to suggest as a suitable motto and rallying cry for newly enfranchised womanhood the words ‘Freed to free,’ *Liberata, liberatura*, an earnest of appropriate anti-tyrannical legislation.

## THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT COMMITTEE.

At a meeting convened by the above Committee on July 16th, Dr. E. Beadon Turner, President of the British Medical Association, and Miss Elizabeth Bolton, M.D., spoke against Regulation 40D. Dr. Turner said that, with few exceptions, the whole of the Medical Profession would agree with him in saying that Regulation 40D. was foolish, stupid and wrong. It was conceived in a panic and brought forth in a hurry. He was convinced it would have to be withdrawn, having done much harm and no good. He was in favour of a simple clause, making it a penal offence to transmit venereal disease knowingly or by culpable neglect. But on Dr. Turner's own showing it would be very difficult to administer such a law equitably in cases of illicit intercourse. It has been suggested that husbands and wives could be protected under the Marriage Laws and children under the Children's Act.

We feel confident that Lady Tichborne's appeal, which we publish in this issue, will meet with the sympathy of our readers. Catholic Suffragists should be eager to assist in founding a Catholic Women's Bed in memory of the great pioneer, Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, whom we all honour.



From **LADY TICHBORNE,**  
**TICHBORNE PARK,**  
**ALRESFORD,**  
**HANTS.**

Dear Madam,

I venture to beg the hospitality of your columns, hoping that your readers will help me with a scheme in which I am very much interested. An effort is being made to raise a Memorial to the late Dr. Garrett Anderson, the first English woman doctor, by endowing beds in the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, founded by her in 1866. This was the first Hospital staffed and organised entirely by women, and now, because it does not rank as a War Charity, its needs tend to be greatly overlooked, yet the Hospital is over fifty years old and has a list of about one hundred and fifty patients awaiting admission.

I feel sure that you will agree with me that the care of women should be one of our first thoughts at the present time, as every one is the wife, mother or relative of a soldier.

It is proposed to raise the much needed endowment fund, by asking representative groups of women to give £1,000, which names a bed in the Hospital after the collective donors of that sum, and I have been asked to collect for a "Catholic Woman's Bed," which I have undertaken to do, and I hope that your readers will be able to help me, as I feel that our Catholic women should not be left out of a scheme which means so much to our own sex.

Any subscriptions sent to me at the above address will, of course, be acknowledged personally.

Yours truly,  
 DENISE TICHBORNE.

To THE EDITOR, THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

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