

Volume 1

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SHCJ ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from a manuscript
copy of the Original]

Chez les Dames de l'Assomption
Chaillot

July 19 [1846]

My dear John,

I received your letter of the 26th April yesterday in answer to mine of the preceding autumn You may be sure I was much relieved to hear that dear Angelica was over her confinement & that you had another dear child to console you for the loss of your darling in heaven if one can call the gaining of Paradise for a soul loss. And why has dear Angelica never written to me herself? Perhaps she may imagine me disposed to criticise but letters ought never to be criticised being only the composition of friendship and I am sure she would have a great deal to tell me if I were by her side so why has she never made the effort to write just what she would say to me? I think I would give her a penance for this if she were to consult me how to cure her dislike of writing – let me think a moment – Yes I would condemn her to a half hour of letter copying every day until she had copied a volume & then I would advise her to reserve a half hour every day for writing if not letters she could keep a journal, & put down all the events of the day that are worth remembering. If she will do this I will promise her that she will never have the remorse & torment of leaving letters unanswered. You see dear Angelica I do not forget your sufferings at G. Coteau and indeed I would have written to you before had I not wished to spare you the annoyance of answering it – As for Pierce not writing to you John, I think you make a

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great mistake since to count at the least I make out from two to three letters to you, Harry & George while we were at Rome that I remember his having spoken to me about. I left Rome 18th April with the children & our English maid that we had with us ever since we left England, & got to Paris on the 1st of May. We have been lodging in the Couvent de l'Assomption every since. Pierce left there with Lord Shrewsbury a short time after & travelled the hottest weather one can imagine through Switzerland & Germany so that we have not seen him since, however we hear from him very often & from Mercer too. They were both well last week, & Merty almost crazy with joy at the thought of his vacations which will begin the 4th of August. - You have no doubt heard of the death of our dear holy Pope Gregory XVI and of the election of our present Holy Father Pius IX. I have had three or four letters from Rome giving a minute account of all that occurred but you have no doubt had it all in the Herald. There is one thing that I do not think will be mentioned publicly, there was a dove flying around the Chamber of the Conclave of Cardinals during the whole time of the Election which they endeavoured in vain to drive out. - The Romans are delighted with their Father & Sovereign. His reception by the Roman people was most touching - I must tell Pierce to send you a letter that I received from Mr Shaw that I sent to him, which will deeply interest you. I have this moment got a letter from Pierce he is well & deeply engaged in the duties of the ministry instructing, preaching hearing confessions &c., &c. - So you see it is not for nothing that I have given him to God. You may be sure this thought gives me much consolation & we ought to look for a greater share of the divine love in proportion as we are willing to sacrifice our natural happiness. A.M.D.G. and look too for even more in eternity - I have said nothing about our dear little God child - I wish I

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could see it & help Angelica to take care of it, but she must make the cross on its forehead for me every morning and as I am so far away from it & all of you, I can only pray and I do always more than once a day that Almighty God may keep all of you and bless you and fit you for the eternal beatitude – I thank you most sincerely for your remembrance before the Altar & beg of you not to forget us & our intentions after your Communions, & sometimes to receive our Lord for our intentions. When we remember that one Communion would be sufficient to make saints of us if we corresponded perfectly with the grace of God, it makes one hope that that one will finally come & will deliver us from a divided heart; for why are we not all Saints? Only because our hearts are not fixed in God – I look upon your presentiments as only a little nervousness since I am afraid you are not quite saintly enough to get to heaven so quickly or to have the grace of prophecy yet awhile - Do you make a little meditation every morning? If you do not I wish you would try it, if it were only for a quarter of an hour during the beginning of the Mass or after it, preparing the points as you go to bed. I am sorry to hear that George remains in a state of indifference to Catholicism. Why don't you lend him the books you have, & get him interested in the Puseyite movement? I think Harry would be a Catholic, if it were not for (his wife) Eliza who is so very bitter against everything Catholic, that even little Nanny laughs at a crucifix as she has no doubt been taught to do by her mother. Please God that Harry may send them to Catholic schools where they may learn what is true and what is false. The conversions in England are innumerable among the clergy & their flocks. The Jesuits alone have had in London last year 500, & I think Pierce mentions in the last two years in two other districts

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6000. Gloria Patri. Kiss the dear baby for me with love to dear Gecklas ever dear George [John?]

Your affectionate Sister

C. Connelly

Paris 1846.

We shall not leave Paris before August and then we go to Mrs. Berkeley's to stop there until I decide under Father Mahone's direction upon my future movements, but you can send your letters for me to Pierce & he will send them to me wherever I may be. I trust we may all see our dear country again but when, God only knows and I do not think it will be likely to happen before Merty's education is finished. You know I shall never enter the Order of the Sacred Heart, the Constitutions are not such as I could consent to for myself or our dear little Ady, and there is something more to be done for the glory of God. Though wherever I may be for Ady she must judge for herself & decide her own vocation with her spiritual director.