

ORIGINAL – NOONAN FAMILY ARCHIVES [copied from original]
PHOTOSTAT – GAENSLEN FAMILY ARCHIVES

+ J.M.J.

Sep^t 12. 1845 Spetchley Park
Worcestershire

My dearest brother

I received your letter a few days ago with one you sent to Pierce – My poor dear mistaken brother dear to me as ever why will you not let every one follow their vocation in peace – It is very little consequence to me what any one says about me; time & eternity will prove if I have abandoned my duty to God & my dear children – Yes dear Ralph be persuaded [sic] the more we love God the more we love our natural duties and the more deeply we penetrate into the divine mysteries the more capable we become of fulfilling them perfectly – I mean fulfilling our natural duties – There is no faith where there is no mystery Oh my dear brother in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Ghost for the love of your soul mistrust yourself – How can you have more confidence in your own opinion & your own judgement or that of any one man, than in the learned and holy councils of ages, the combined wisdom of the wisest of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church? Thank God the time is fast coming for the spirit of persecution to be put down and as the veil falls from the eyes of those willing to become little children that they may enter the kingdom God [sic] even on earth, we must go on hoping and praying in great charity that the Spirit of our good God will remove it from those most dear to us – Oh my dear Brother you do not believe in the blessed and undivided Trinity! And you speak of the voice of God & my conscience while you reject the words of our blessed Lord & Saviour You tell me not to be so cruel to the world, & the flesh! while you & I and every one who is baptised have vowed to renounce the world the flesh & the devil, which vow I take care to renew every morning of my life – to turn away from

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- 2 -

a subject which necessarily [sic] must be disagreeable let me congratulate you on approaching marriage which you do not tell me of 'tho from Pierces letter I know of it – I regret not having known Miss Distku [?] myself tho I recollect often having heard you speak of her – Why do you not tell me something more She is of the Society of Friends I think – it is very hard to me to know nothing from any one of my own family – I have not heard from dear Ady for more than a year tho I wrote to her last; from Sister Martha for nearly three years tho' I wrote to her last; from yourself just now – I wrote to you last August or September by the Bp. Of Texas sending a little painting of mine – I do not know what kind friend had interfered between me & dear Sis. Patty but I left her good friends and am so still as far as I am concerned I wish you would say to her that the relics & rosary were not for her they were for George's wife but I then thought her name was Martha – I heard she was offended by this and said I knew she did not like such things – I saw Mrs T. Wagner (Miss Rhodes) several times two winters ago – I am very sorry that Sister M. does not seek her consolation among her family - If she only knew the hearts of some & could know the selfishness of flatteries I think she would prefer family candour to interested fawning but you need not repeat this as I have no wish to form my judgement upon one side or the other – I should be glad to know if she & Sister have made friends and to know something about Ady & herself - Have any of the family been to see dear Molly? My own history is very brief, I believe you know from all sides that our dear brother Pierce is a priest and had accts of us up to last August – At that time I wrote to Ady I think that I had determined not to enter the Order of the Sacred Heart as I had many serious objection[s] to the government of its being entirely independent of the authority of the the [sic] Right Rev^d Bishop's [sic] of the Diocese [sic] &c &c After remaining then for nearly a year longer and reflecting over the wants of the day and

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the means of spiritual Mercy to be exercised my Rev^d Father Director decided upon my coming to England to form an order upon the rule of S^t F. de Sales Since coming I have united myself with a very distinguished writer of the day Miss Emily Bowles to put our work into operation. The great & good D^r Wiseman whose learned and interesting works you may have seen has entered warmly into our designs and we have nearly concluded upon accepting the beautiful building at Derby. [The next two words obscured by crossing out] – which has been offered to us by the Parish Priest and his Lordship – Oh I forgot to mention that our rules were at first drawn up for the United States as I had no intention nor have I now for deserting my own dear Country but the immense number of converts in England offered so large a field for Spiritual Mercy that it seems more in the designs of God to begin here - As you will go to Texas as soon as you are married I will write to you and dear Gregory together & send you the heads of our rules which will please you I am sure since we enter so into the active duties of the world and will not be cloistered. – Kiss your dear Mary for me if this finds her my sister and tell her I hope to see & know her one of these days if we live long enough and if not here I trust to do so in the eternal world – The children are all well – Merty has been with us during his vacations and has grown quite out of your recollection but his face has not changed at all. With love to all

Ever your affectionate Sister

C. Connelly

[Addressed to:-]

Ralph W. Peacock Esq^r

Philadelphia

Pa

Via Liverpool

& New York