

Because the original entries, written in 1844, were done in a large ledger style book, they did not fit the scanning piece on my printer. The originals are housed at the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historic Research Center, and are not digitized. Therefore, I am transcribing the two texts here, for students to use as a primary source.

Recorded Correspondence of Bishop Kenrick

Large ledger

Executive Chamber Harrisburg, Pa

10th June 1844

Reverend and Dear Sir

I was about to take my departure from the Seat of Government a few days ago when I received your friendly letter of the 28th (word is unclear) returning me the thanks of the religious body of which you are the honored head for my late visit to Philadelphia. Though I proceeded with all possible dispatch to discharge the duty which I believed my station imposed, I must allow myself to say that I never witnessed a more melancholy occasion than that to which you allude. Independently of my sympathy with the Catholic body, as one whose fathers were identified with them in their fiercest trans-Atlantic struggles, and as one who has long enjoyed among them a numerous class of friends, **I cannot but regard the late disasters as the severest test to which republicanism has ever been subjected. That under a government erected solely as a retreat from intolerance and oppression, the temples of religion should be destroyed and its professors stripped of their property and hunted down by those who either do not coincide with them in faith or have no religious belief, is an instance of cruelty well calculated to fill every patriotic heart with grief and indignation. Further than this it would be difficult to conceive how lawless violence could (ex?? Word unclear)**

Out of all this it is for you, sir to derive a consolation which you have doubtless not failed to draw. I think the history of our race, and the well-known principles of our nature, instruct us that persecution, though a painful is the most successful promoter of religious truth. Whatever be its present aspect, I am well convinced that the ultimate effect of this destruction of your property and attack on your faith, must be the more wide dissemination and more extended influence of your mild and peaceful religion.

Regretting that I was not made aware of the extent of the disturbances at an earlier period, and that I was not enabled at least to participate in preserving the church of St. Augustine, I remain Reverend Sir

Very respectfully

Your friend

David R. Porter

Major General R. Patterson

Dear Sir,

In the name of the Catholic community I return you the most cordial thanks for the efficient protection afforded us in the late Kensington and Southwark riots. To your inflexible integrity and determined bravery, we unquestionably owe the safety of our institutions and our lives. **In the protection afforded us, you were no doubt influenced by the high consideration, that the safety of Society and the principles of the Constitution were at stake, but our gratitude is not lessened by the reflection that in our persons these principles were assailed.** The exposure of your health and life in our behalf imposed on us obligations which we cannot repay. With sincere and ardent prayers for your health and happiness, I have the honor to remain

Your Obligated and Obedient Servant

Francis Patrick Kenrick

Bishop of Philadelphia

Recorded in ledger July 29, 1844