Albany November 16th 1791.

My dear Sir.

Thank you very sincerely for your kind letter of the 14th and am exceedingly gratified in learning that you have with true philosophy the buffetings of the short-sighted leaders of faction. I am no censor for your ultimate vindication. It is good fortune as well as mine that such authentic conceptions for the improvement of society were in conflict with existing interests founded in existing prejudices. I do not know what may have been your experience, but, although not yet old, I have profited through such struggles before, and although weariness as they sometimes were, I have seen the interests and prejudices roll away together in a space so short that the result conformed. I have noticed several very gratifying indications of a determination among your People to vindicate and sustain you. If this should be the case, you will see hereafter a complete transition among the People at large. The refit of the legislative apparatus. All I say to you with all freedom that I propose to adopt my opinions and principles with firmness, and to submit the subject of the educational system to the direct action of the Legislature. May I not hope that your concern on that great subject will induce you to accede to my wishes by making me a landmark before the close of navigation. Do not say May.

The articles in the Penn [spelling] are exceedingly. An express view of your ability and bearing which I know are concurred in by all the enlightened and generous men who
I have watched the course of recent events... issues which I have taken pleasure in presenting to all of my acquaintance who from their association were unable to become acquainted with you.

You have, my dear sir, a high association here. One of the highest that of lifting the least and the least influential immigrant Catholic population from a condition of inferiority and exclusion to equality and harmony with all other sects and citizens. You are endowed with genuine, unflagging, and unswerving appreciation of truth which seem to me guarantees of your success.

I shall esteem myself fortunate if I can contribute to a small extent important to the prosperity and happiness of my fellow members by encouraging a spirit of tolerance among them.

Believe me, my dear Bishop,

always respectfully and sincerely,

Your friend and devoted servant,

William H. Seaward,

The Right Reverend,
Pilate Hughes,
New York.