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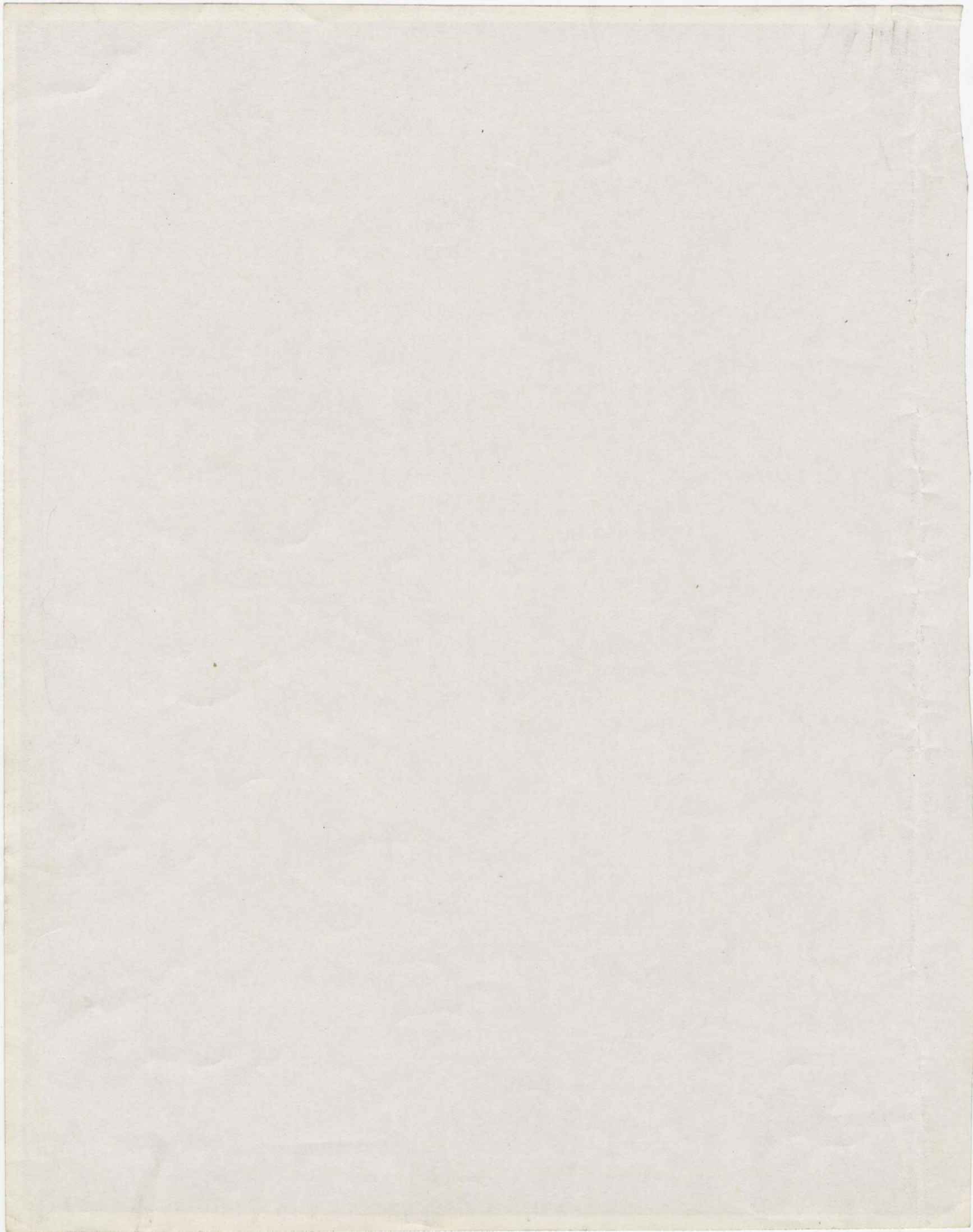
Albany, May 18th 1841

Dear Sir,

You will please accept my acknowledgments for your letter of the 11th instant. It contains a new proof of your kind desire to divert from me the shafts of open enemies and apparent friends.

While I do not doubt that your prudential views are as wise as they are kind in regard to myself, yet you will permit me to observe that confiding always in truth and in the intelligence of the People, I have not feared at any time to avow distinctly and maintain in argument and action the principles and measures which are involved in the effort to extend the system of common school education to all the children in the State. Nor do the temporary misconstruction and misrepresentation through which I am passing alarm me. In this as in all other cases I deem it only necessary that my opinions and proceedings be fairly and frankly communicated even under circumstances most unfavorable to a candid judgment of them, and I cheerfully trust the conclusion of them with my countrymen. Public opinion is the great agent in this country in accomplishing all measures designed to promote the public welfare. That agent cannot be called into operation without producing excitement and agitation. Through all the excitement and agitation which the present discussion produces I look to the great ends of the equal dissemination of knowledge and the consequent improvement of society.

I trust that my public life has shown that I never hesitate to present even an unwelcome



the education of their children. Moreover I invite all who may take the trouble to look through the records of my public action and to institute an inquiry into my private correspondence and conversation, and if a word or thought inconsistent with the public opinions I have expressed, shall be produced, I shall cheerfully acknowledge the justice of those who have temporarily delayed the accomplishment of the great public measures I advocate by questioning the sincerity with which they have been recommended. It cannot be necessary to say to you, Sir, that I deny altogether the design attributed to me of breaking up the public schools of New York. I would on the contrary increase their efficiency if possible, while I opened their doors or those of other equally useful institutions to those who are for any cause deprived of the advantages of education they afford.

In regard to the reform desired, I adopt the apostolic injunction, in which all wise statesmen and sound Christians agree "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good"

I am, dear Sir

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

William H. Sewar,

The Right Reverend

John Hughes

Bishop Coadjutor to

New York

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truth to my fellow citizens and although I have sometimes been in advance of public opinion all will agree that I have no reason to complain of the want of kindness on the part of the people. I know that truth will ultimately become acceptable. So in regard to the present state of the school question I am desirous that the real interest of the Catholics in the question should be known. If it were true, as some contend, that none but Catholic children are neglected, I would nevertheless maintain that the Catholic children ought to be educated. If it be true that none but Catholics complain I uphold the Catholics in complaining. If Catholics only are offended in conscience I maintain that that offence ought not to be continued by authority of law. Many Protestants have been offended because they feared that by obtaining equal advantages of education for their children, Catholics might acquire undue influence, and on the other hand many Catholics have been led by misrepresentation to believe that such liberal sentiments as I have advanced could not be sincere. I assure you, my dear Sir, that during all the agitation which we have seen I have had but one cause of regret, which was that notwithstanding I have never affected concealment, nor even spoken darkly, yet for a brief ~~time~~ when I was a candidate for public favor, and political and religious excitement ran very high, an impression was to a limited extent made upon the public mind unfavorable to the sincerity of the opinions I have publicly expressed. The time has now arrived for my vindication. I am not now a candidate, nor can I foresee an occasion when I shall either find it my duty or have a desire to offer myself for the suffrages of my fellow citizens. Whatever may have been thought heretofore, I can afford now at least to be frank and honest. I reaffirm therefore all I have before promulgated concerning the policy of this country in regard to foreigners and

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Albany 18 May 1841.

Governor Edward.

Vindicating him self from the illbrats
of his opponents on the Public's Behalf
graciously.

