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The Clergy Opposed to George

The following letter written by Joseph J. O'Donohue to Monsignor Preston, and the letter of the Monsignor in reply shows the standing of the Catholic clergy toward the candidacy of **Henry George**.

New York, Oct. 26, 1866.

My Dear Monsignor Preston — It has been generally asserted that the Catholic clergy of this city are favorably disposed toward the candidacy of Mr. **Henry George** for Mayor, and are inclined to support the social and political views expressed in his platform.

I have grown gray in the Church, and am an old friend of yours personally. I therefore venture to ask you to inform me if there is any foundation in fact for the assertion made by Mr. George's supporters.

Very faithfully and respectfully yours, Joseph J. O'Donohue.

My Dear Mr. O'Donohue

In reference to your letter just received I can state with confidence that the great majority of the Catholic clergy in this city are opposed to the candidacy of Mr. George. They think his principles unsound and unsafe, and contrary to the teachings of the Church. I have not met one among the priests of this archdiocese who would not deeply regret the election of Mr. George to any post of influence. His principles, logically carried out, would prove the ruin of the workingmen he professes to befriend. Whatever may be said, I think there is no question as to the position of the Catholic clergy. And although we never interfere directly in elections, we would not wish now to be misunderstood at a time when the best interests of society may be in danger.

Yours very sincerely, Thomas S. Preston