

**UNITED STATES CATHOLIC  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY. DIARY OF  
A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA IN THE YEAR 1883**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649241965

United States Catholic Historical Society. Diary of a visit to the United States of America in the year 1883 by Charles Russell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES RUSSELL**

**UNITED STATES CATHOLIC  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY. DIARY OF  
A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA IN THE YEAR 1883**



United States Catholic Historical Society

Diary of a Visit  
TO THE  
United States of America  
IN THE YEAR 1883

BY  
CHARLES LORD RUSSELL, OF KILLOWEN  
*Late Lord Chief Justice of England*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE  
REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S.J.

AND  
AN APPENDIX BY  
THOMAS FRANCIS MEEHAN, A.M.

EDITED BY  
CHARLES GEORGE HERBERMANN, Ph.D.

NEW YORK:  
PUBLISHED BY  
THE UNITED STATES CATHOLIC  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1910

## PREFACE

To Rev. Matthew Russell, S.J., and Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J., the Editor wishes in the first place to express his gratitude for placing at the disposal of the United States Catholic Historical Society the interesting diary of Lord Russell of Killowen, written during his visit to our country in 1883. It is always interesting and instructive "to see ourselves as others see us," and Lord Russell was a man of such sound judgment, good taste, keen observation, and catholic sympathies that his views on what he saw in the United States cannot fail to be instructive. Withal, the diary affords to the reader a vivid picture of family life and affection which cannot fail to charm every sympathetic heart.

The thanks of the Society are also due to the New York Bar Association for the photograph of Lord Russell's bust which graces its library, as well as to the management of the Northern Pacific Railroad for our illustrations of some of the leading incidents connected with Lord Russell's journey across our continent. Lastly, we express our thanks to the Hon. John P. Mitchel for his kindness in permitting us to reproduce the portrait of his distinguished grandfather.



## Introduction

LORD RUSSELL of Killowen, Chief Justice of England, had always warm American sympathies. Far on in his career, when he was anything but a disappointed man, he told me that, if he had to start life again, he would be inclined to cast his lot under the Stars and Stripes.

He paid two visits to the United States. The first was during the Long Vacation of 1883; and it is of this visit that some account is given in the following pages. The second visit was in the autumn of 1896, when he was invited to deliver the annual address before the American Bar Association at Saratoga Springs. On this latter occasion he kept no diary, for he was accompanied by his wife, his daughter Lilian (now Mrs. Henry Drummond), and his son, the Hon. Charles Russell. He was also accompanied by his genial and gifted friend, Sir Frank Lockwood.

The first time he crossed the Atlantic, he was not Lord Russell nor even Sir Charles Russell, nor was he the principal figure of the party. He accompanied Lord Coleridge, whom he was to succeed as Chief Justice of England, and Sir James Hannen, whom, three years later, he was to address as Head of the Parnell Commission in a speech eight days long. Those things, and other things that happened after-



wards, would have seemed improbable enough when Charles Stewart Parnell gave Charles Russell, Q. C., the day before he sailed from Liverpool, this letter of introduction to Justice Shea, New York:

HOUSE OF COMMONS, AUG. 13, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR:

Permit me to introduce to you Mr. Russell, who is visiting America. He is anxious to learn the status, political and social, and the views of our leading and representative countrymen in the States; and, although not a member of our party, he has always done what he could, both in and out of Parliament, from his own point of view, to serve the interests of Ireland. Need I say how much pleased I shall be if you can do anything to further the objects of his visit?

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

CHAS. S. PARNELL.

The President of the Society which is publishing this diary will perhaps allow me to give this extract from his letter to Father John J. Wynne, S.J., who had placed it in his hands:

"I have read through Lord Russell's diary with considerable interest. It impresses me greatly as a portrait of a good affectionate father of a family interested in the education of his children. It reminded me of the great Villard glorification, in which General W.— also took part. The diary is also a sad,

sympathetic memorial to the Indians and affords a glimpse of the rising Pacific States in their infancy. These features, together with Lord Russell's estimate of the oratorical powers of Evarts and other Americans, some of which are quite instructive, I think make the diary well worth publishing."

I will only add that it seems to me highly characteristic of my brother that amidst all the fatigue and worries of such a journey he should have persevered in jotting down his impressions in pencil, copy-book after copy-book, and sending them week by week to the dear ones at home, without the faintest notion of such a fate as has now after a quarter of a century befallen these hurried notes of travel.

The "Martin" referred to, especially in the account of the visit to California, was Mr. Patrick Martin, an Irish barrister, Q.C., and at one time M. P. for Kilkenny. That visit to California was undertaken for the purpose of seeing the "Kate" of the diary, namely, Mother Baptist Russell of St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco. She was the second of three sisters who all became Sisters of Mercy. In her twenty-fifth year she led out a band of nuns from Kinsale in the south of Ireland to the Golden Gate, which they entered on the very day that the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was solemnly proclaimed as an article of Catholic faith. After a very full life of great utility, she died in the hospital which she had founded and had

maintained some forty years, St. Mary's, San Francisco, in August, 1898, exactly two years before her brother. May they rest in peace.

As we have said, Lord Russell always felt a warm admiration for the United States of America. The feelings entertained towards him, especially by the American Bar, were expressed by the Ambassador to England, Mr. Joseph Choate, on the occasion of the unveiling of Lord Russell's statue in the central hall of the Royal Courts of Justice, January 11, 1905. Of the £3,200 subscribed for the memorial £900 came from the United States. As the representative of that great country, Mr. Choate said that "he would never have, and never had had, a more grateful and agreeable duty than to declare his affection, esteem, and admiration for the great jurist and noble gentleman whose statue had just been unveiled. The name and personality of Sir Charles Russell had long been familiar to the profession and to all the people of the United States. At the time of his untimely death he was a universal favourite amongst all parties, creeds, and sections in that country. The career of every great English lawyer was watched with the keenest interest by every disciple of Blackstone and Storey wherever our common language was spoken, and when a man rose step by step by sheer force of character, talents, and ambition, without the aid of patronage or influence, from the lowest rung of the ladder to the ex-