Port-Madison, May 29th 1856

Very Sir, & Very Dear Sir,

You do not write frequently, it is true; but when I write I have something to say, and I never forget to apprise you of injuries that have been done them, or of threatening danger. Hear therefore what I will communicate to you personally, and be sure to accept it for yourself.

The Bishop of Missouri has spoken strongly against your establishment in general, and against you especially, not only to Bishop Hicks, but to all the Bishops in Council assembled. It has made a deep impression on Bishop Hicks, and it has altogether changed his appreciation of South Bend. You have been represented as rendering yourself independent of the Ordinary, and as having obtained ordination from strange Bishops, when the Bishop of the Diocese did not know anything about them several months afterwards. You have congregations entrusted to you, and the revenue of those congregations go to build up your establishment, and in consequence the congregations suffer,
You have neglected your principal object, the brothers, to multiply and find fathers that can be obtained every where, and almost to any number. You have squandered thousands and thousands of dollars for a university, the good of which is questionable. The fathers of the Council, in a public session, asked me what I thought of your establishment of brothers, and how far you had succeeded. My answer was: I highly praise the efforts of Father Carew to forward the establishment of his brothers; I must confess, however, that so far he has not been very successful, but I think he has not been helped and encouraged by the clergy as he should have been; and many and serious demands that such vocations are very scarce in this County. Now Bishop Lambe who does not seem to have ever been favorably impressible concerning religious orders and congregations, soon after the Council began to find fault with you, you have commanded your priests to make a collection for the Orphan Children of the Diocese, and you have kept the collections, when it should have been sent to the Bishop of the Diocese. You called him to ordain one of your subjects, and what did you give him for his trouble, a few sheets of ginger paper, but not one dollar for his travelling expenses. He begged of you to take his seminarians as cheap as you could possibly afford, and you asked as much again, and more too than the Bishop of Winsome or the Benedictine of Wolves. Your brothers will cost more than lay teachers, and they are
not half as well qualified. He told me lately, he had written to you for brothers, and then I said: We must build them a small house, and good school room; if such as the late, did he reply, I do not want any brothers, and I shall have lay teachers. Much had been said concerning your enormous collections on rail road, and the little that has been effected with them. Rev. John Forrester, the late zealous bishop, and now the great friend and confident of Bishop Priest, failed as much as he can the mind of the Bishop. When he came back from his last missionary tour, he had much to say about moneys collected by Father Kehoe to pay his traveling expenses to Rome, his expenses during his stay in Rome, and his expenses in coming back. He related as a promise, that the following: Some hands on the rail road had been killed, and some other badly hurt. Why were seizing the Company for damages, the Company seeing they could not pay heavy damages went to Father Kehoe and told them: We will give you a free ticket on our road, as long as you will go employed on our road, and that we will give you five hundred dollars, if you will speak to those Irish families and prevalent on them to receipt so much. Father Kehoe accepted the idea and thus helped in prevailing those poor families.

This spoke Father Luke, the one who was expelled from the House of Carrington on account of habitual drunkenness, of fornication, adultery, and of sacrileges stealing.
The Bishop accepted all as words of the gospel, and it never occurred to his mind to question the veracity of the winged and malicious thunderer. I say nothing, should I speak, they must say again as they have repeatedly said before; he takes the part of Father Corvis, because he is a countryman of his. Every thing is Dutch here, and low Dutch at that. I am in the way, and they do every thing they can to disgust me and force me to go, I have already a better place, but before leaving I will witness their manners a little longer, and laugh to turn such mean and degrading policy. Procure it gone against, he has the charge from the Bishop to go to Plymouth, to say nothing; but to inquire what has been done there, what is doing now, and what are the prospects. The next thing will be, it is only a quiet of mine, but the next thing will be to take Plymouth from you. The next will be Lafayette, the next Michigan City, Wabash, and St. John. Turley Creek is occupied, Jolton and Elkheart are gone overboard and finally you will confine within the limits of your own premises, where you will find me busy. I have written this for your own good assistance. You may keep it for reference, and convince yourself that I am good at judging, but keep it from the public eye, for some time at least. Yours ever J. Bond. 