

WŁADYSŁAW PAWLICKI<sup>1</sup> TO HELENA MODRZEJEWSKA<sup>2</sup>

San Francisco  
24 May 1906

Respected and Very Gracious Benefactress,

On behalf of my wife, who is still extremely busy and nervous, I take up my pen to express to Your Gracious Ladyship, in both of our names, the deepest gratitude for Your warm sympathy in the misfortune<sup>3</sup> which so unexpectedly befell us, along with others.



19 April 1906 *Marin Journal*:  
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE AND EARTHQUAKE

*Pan* Rudolf,<sup>4</sup> who, while passing through San Francisco, graciously deigned to visit us, must certainly have given Your Gracious Ladyship a detailed description of everything that either he saw himself or which was described to him by actual witnesses of the terrible, elemental catastrophe of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April, -- the repetition of which things I need not bore You with, and which, were it possible, ought to be quickly forgotten, but I hasten to ease Your uncertainty about the fate of persons well known to us. So continuing, in relation to Rev. (John J.) Prendergast[:]<sup>5</sup>

Nothing happened to him either in the course of those terrible days of affliction [1906 Fire and Earthquake] and, relative to what most concerns him today, what's to come of the Cathedral, of

the school, which owing to the fire after the earthquake, is now losing most of its parishioners, who are rapidly leaving the environs of Van Ness Avenue, which is transforming itself into a commercial street. As formerly, every time he meets with us – his first question is: Have you heard from Madame Modjeska? *Pani* [Mary A.] Tobin<sup>6</sup> after the

**St. Mary's Cathedral.** Northwest corner Van Ness avenue and O'Farrell street. Most Rev. P. W. Riordan, Archbishop; Very Rev. J. J. Prendergast, Vicar-General; Rev. Charles A. Ramm and Rev. John J. Cantwell, Secretaries; Rev. J. B. Hannigan, Rev. W. P. Sullivan and Rev. John M. Byrne, Assistants; residence 1100 Franklin street.

San Francisco City Directory

<sup>1</sup> See: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Pawllicki.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://culture.pl/en/artist/helena-modrzejewska-modjeska>

<sup>3</sup> The fire and earthquake in San Francisco, 18 April 1906; see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906\\_San\\_Francisco\\_earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906_San_Francisco_earthquake);

<sup>4</sup> Ralph Modjeski; *Pan* and *Pani* are Polish titles of respect, and are roughly equivalent to Sir and Ma'am.

<sup>5</sup> In 1872 Father John J. Prendergast and Lizzie Armer founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in San Francisco, California.

Prendergast officiated for a time at St. Mary's Cathedral on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. See: [http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SFC19080816.2.128&dliv=none&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-----1](http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SFC19080816.2.128&dliv=none&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-----1;);

<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SFC19060129.2.63&dliv=none&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-----1>

<sup>6</sup> Wife of Richard Tobin and mother of Richard M. Tobin; see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_M.\\_Tobin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_M._Tobin)

fire, in which she lost her house and everything in it, moved in with her daughter, *Pani* Cecilia Clark, in Menlo Park.<sup>7</sup>

**SENATOR CLARK'S SON  
WEDS MISS CECILIA TOBIN**

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 4.—Charles W. Clark, son of United States Senator Clark of Montana, was married today to Miss Cecilia Tobin. The ceremony, which was private, was performed at the Tobin residence.

Los Angeles Herald 5 August 1904

We read in the newspapers that she is soon to begin building a new house on the site of the old one [see footnote 7]. I heard nothing at all about her having been sick. — *Pani* [Theresa Doyle] Casserly<sup>8</sup> still enjoys good health. Your Gracious Ladyship might therefore write to Miss Margaret [Casserly] without exposing yourself to

uncertainty. It's been quite a while since we've seen either *Pani* Casserly or her daughter. Leaving San Francisco is something we can't even dream about today. So many things still remain to be taken care of.

Abstract Co., 101 City Hall  
Casserly Theresa, widow, r 2123 Buchanan

San Francisco 1905 City Directory

With all of this do, both of us most cordially thank Your Gracious Ladyship for the invitations, which under other circumstances we would not fail with the greatest willingness to avail ourselves of. What further plans do You have for the future? Is it not better to rest for a while at some secluded place in America, where greater clarity and peace are to be had, than off in Europe? My dreams of visiting Poland have similarly passed away forever. "One must yield" — as Captain Bielawski<sup>9</sup> was wont to say. May perpetual Light shine upon him.<sup>10</sup>

Has Your Ladyship been informed that last week our worthy Bryan Clinch<sup>11</sup> joined his ancestors? As I heard it, he was found unconscious on a street in Oakland and carried to the Sisters of Providence Hospital, where he soon gave up the ghost. — He was buried in Santa Clara last Monday, next to his old friend Dr. O'Brien.<sup>12</sup> This death touched

**CLINCH—In Providence Hospital, Oakland, May 17, 1906, Bryan J. Clinch. Notice of funeral hereafter. It\***

San Francisco Call 18 May 1906

me very strongly! I'm sure that *Pan* Karol will also feel his loss. — So it goes, one after another, our old friends and acquaintances leave this world!

<sup>7</sup> [http://research.omicsgroup.org/index.php/Charles W. Clark \(businessman\)](http://research.omicsgroup.org/index.php/Charles_W._Clark_(businessman))

Tobin/Clark Estate: <http://www.sothebys.com/en/news-video/blogs/all-blogs/extraordinary-properties/2013/04/peerless-tobin-clark-estate-video-tour.html>

<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Casserly (wife of Senator Eugene Casserly) was a wealthy society woman, as was Mary A. Tobin; Mrs. Casserly died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1911; See: Eugene Casserly: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene\\_Casserly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_Casserly)

<sup>9</sup> Bielawski died in 1905; see: <http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Bielawski.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Catholic refrain for the dead

<sup>11</sup> Bryan James Clinch, contractor and prominent architect; died 17 May 1906; buried at the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, Varsi Chapel, Space 63F, 490 Lincoln St., Santa Clara, CA (Alameda County)

<sup>12</sup> Not yet identified by us

After much running about, and various kinds of difficulties, we at last succeeded in finding a house on Sacramento Street,<sup>13</sup> not far from Fillmore – which currently bears the heaviest traffic, - we moved in a couple days ago, but the inside is greatly disordered.

Pawlicki Casimir F, 2709 Sacramento  
Pawlicki L, 2709 Sacramento  
City Directory, San Francisco (Ladislaus = Władysław)

Repeating once again our most cordial thanks for graciously remembering us, and for your kind-hearted sympathy, we send to both of You expressions of respect and friendship with which we remain constantly yours,

Helena [Ellen] and Władysław Pawlicki

We send regards to *Pan Rudolf*<sup>14</sup> if he's still at the *rancho*.<sup>15</sup>

magazine, published at Manchester.

**Bryan J. Clinch** died at Oakland, Cal., on May 17. Mr. Clinch was born in Ireland sixty-three years ago, and was a resident of the Pacific coast for forty years. He was a well-known architect and author. Some of the finest Catholic church buildings in California were designed and constructed by him, including the Cathedral at Sacramento, St. Peter's and St. Francis', of San Francisco. His writings consisted in great part of essays on historical subjects, contributed to various magazines, particularly to the *American Catholic Quarterly*. He was the author of a work on California and its missions, and had a historical sketch of **Santa Clara** College ready for press, which perished, together with his books and other manuscripts in the San Francisco fire. He served at different times as editor of the *Monitor*, of his native city. One of the last works from his pen was a scholarly essay on "Language Revivals in the Nineteenth Century," which appeared in the May number of this magazine, attracting much favorable notice.

From the *Catholic Messenger* 1906

MRS. CASSERLY'S FUNERAL  
TO BE HELD TOMORROW

Death of Senator's Widow  
Shock to Friends

Although it was known that she had been confined to her home in Buchanan street for the last six weeks, the death of Mrs. Theresa Casserly, which occurred Friday night, came as a shock to her relatives and friends in this city. The funeral will be held from St. Mary's cathedral at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. The body will be interred in the family lot in Holy Cross cemetery.

Mrs. Casserly, who was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Doyle, prominent California pioneers, was born in New York in 1826. In 1853 she married the late Senator Eugene Casserly, a well known attorney of this state, who died in San Francisco 28 years ago.

Mrs. Casserly was the sister of the late John T. Doyle of Menlo Park, and of the late Emmet Doyle. She is survived by two children, Miss Margaret Casserly and John B. Casserly, who married Miss Cecelia Cudahy of Chicago. Another son, Augustus, died at the family home in Buchanan street in 1894.

2 July 1911 San Francisco Call

SOURCE:

Letter number 31 (Modrzejewska correspondence), generously provided by **Professors Emil Orzechowski** and **Alicja Kędziora**, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

Translated from a Polish transcription (A. Kędziora) by **Bob Lamming**, with **Elżbieta Kieszczyńska** (Clifton, New Jersey), and edited by **Maureen Mroczek Morris** (San Francisco) with **Roman Włodek** (Kraków) and **Lynn Ludlow** (San Francisco). Translation commissioned by Maureen Mroczek Morris.

<sup>13</sup> 2709 Sacramento Street, San Francisco

<sup>14</sup> Ralph Modjeski, son of Helena Modjeska

<sup>15</sup> "Arden" – the estate (ranch) of Madame Modjeska in Orange County, southern California





Pawlicki Residence

Cassery Margueritte Miss, r. 2123 Buchanan

1895 San Francisco City Directory

**BRYAN J. CLINCH.**

THOSE of our readers who are following the valuable and highly interesting history of the *Jesuits in American California* now appearing in the RECORDS will share in the sorrow which the unexpected death of its gifted author, **Bryan J. Clinch**, has caused among his friends. The loss of such a man is, indeed, cause for widespread regret. At the time of the San Francisco disaster Mr. Clinch made a marvellous escape from his wrecked house, but lost all his valuable books and papers. Among the manuscripts which perished in the flames was one just ready for publication. Manfully, aye, even cheerfully, and in a spirit of true Christian fortitude and resignation, Mr. Clinch accepted the privation imposed by divine Providence. Stripped of all his earthly possessions, he was ready to begin anew the life-work to which he had for years dedicated himself. But the physical strength which had been strained and shattered by the shock and excitement of his thrilling experiences during those never-to-be-forgotten days of the destruction of the city that had been his home, proved inadequate for the courageous spirit and energy of his soul. He fell in the streets of Oakland, stricken mortally, and was carried to Providence hospital where, fortified by the sacraments of that Church to whom he was so loyal a son, he peacefully died on May the seventeenth.

Mr. Clinch was by birth an Irishman, and the mother-country ever held equal place in his loyal and patriotic heart with the land of his adoption. By profession he

was an architect, and numerous churches and institutions in the West stand as witnesses to his skill and taste. But his widest reputation was achieved as a writer, and his researches in Church history are likely to gain for him enduring fame among the annalists of this country. His original contributions to the history of the early American missions have been numerous and valuable. Santa Clara College, of which Mr. Clinch's graphic account appears in this number of our quarterly, last year bestowed upon him the honorary degree of doctor in philosophy as a mark of recognition of his achievements in Catholic historical lines. One of the last of these was his work "The History of the California Missions."

The story of Mr. Clinch's life is yet to be told in its fullness. We trust that ere long a worthy biography will appear to give to the public a deeper knowledge of one who devoted his talents to such noble pursuits. *Requiescat in pace.*

*American Catholic Historical Society 1906*

San Francisco Chronicle, 1906

**ARCHITECT AND AUTHOR  
PASSES AWAY IN OAKLAND.**

Bryan J. Clinch, architect and author, died on Thursday in an Oakland hospital from strangulation of the bowels, resulting indirectly from the irregularity of diet since the fire. He was an intimate friend of Aibert Pissis, whom he was visiting in his convalescence across the bay when seized with his fatal illness.

Bryan J. Clinch was a native of Ireland, about 60 years of age, and a graduate of the Catholic College of Dublin, where he was a classmate of John Dillon, the Irish Nationalist member of Parliament. He was remarkable for his literary erudition rather than in his profession, being a classical student and master of French, Italian and Spanish.

Of late years Clinch had written extensively on the friar question in Catholic reviews, articles which caused considerable controversy. His principal work was a history of "The Missions of California" in two volumes, which appeared about two years ago, and established his reputation as an author. Clinch was as remarkable for the carelessness of his attire and the simplicity of his manners as for his erudition, piety and charity.

of Massachusetts, aged 60 years.  
**CLINCH**—In Santa Clara, May 17. **Bryan J. Clinch**, a native of Ireland.  
 The funeral will take place Monday, May 21, at 10:30 o'clock, from St. Claire Church, Santa Clara.