

JAN. 3 / 1850

PROSELYTISM IN THE WEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN JOURNAL.

Outerard, January 11, 1850.

DEAR SIR—By your giving publicity to the following facts in your valuable paper, the public will learn how far proselytism is carried in this part of the West. We have in this small town a proselytising school supported solely by contributions from the purses of those who are enemies to the Catholic faith. There are here also two fanatics named O'Callaghan and Dallas, the former was once a student for the Catholic church, but is now a Church of England minister, and the other is an Englishman who came to this district, thinking to reduce the minds of the poorer peasantry from the profession of their faith by going himself about, as also by sending emissaries, nicknamed Scripture readers, with the Bible in one hand and the meal-bag in the other. They are seeking to entice half-starved people to renounce their faith, and to follow, not Protestantism in its true form, but the vagaries of a bigot & not who are known here by the title of "thumpers."

The school contains about one hundred wretchedly starving children, who have been enticed there by the promises of clothing and a breakfast every morning. They are under the tuition of another seceder from the Catholic church, with the salary of forty pounds a year. This man, in conjunction with these before-named Scripture readers who visit the school, take every pains to instil into the minds of the children in attendance a hatred of everything Catholic. We have no Catholic school in a parish of eighteen miles in extent. Surely the parish priest, the Rev Mr Costea, who has lately got charge of the parish of Outerard, on the demise of the Rev Dr Kirwan, the late president of the Queen's college, Galway, will look to this, and use every means in his power to establish a school here, and save the children from proselytism. Having every reason to know that such a school would be well attended, I send this letter to you, dear Sir, to publish in your valuable paper, in order that it may meet the eye of the wealthy Catholics of this parish—and that they may assist their clergy in forming a much wanting school in this very poor parish.

I remain, dear Sir,