

A LIFE

OF THE

RT. REV. EDWARD MAGINN,

COADJUTOR BISHOP OF DERRY,

WITH

Selections from His Correspondence.

BY

THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE,

AUTHOR OF

"A HISTORY OF THE ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH THE REFORMATION IN IRELAND;"  
DISCOURSES ON "THE CATHOLIC HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA;"  
"THE IRISH SETTLERS IN AMERICA," ETC., ETC

SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.

"It is the duty of a Bishop to judge, to interpret, to consecrate, to ordain, to offer, to baptize, and to confirm."—*Form of Consecration of a Bishop according to the Latin Rite.*

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1863.

TO

HIS SURVIVING RELATIVES AND FRIENDS,

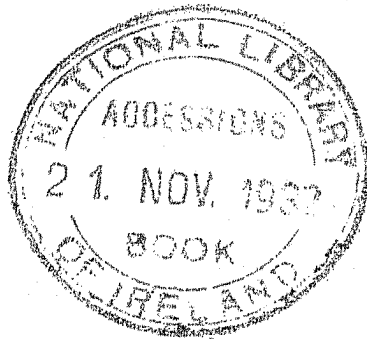
"AT HOME" AND ABROAD.

I Respectfully Dedicate this Memoir

OF

THE LATE RIGHT REVEREND DR. MAGINN,

COADJUTOR BISHOP OF DERRY.



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serve the most marked secrecy at home, as to what proceedings are going on at Rome relative to our ecclesiastical affairs, though one of the leading ministers has just now avowed that they have received from Rome most useful information.

6. That besides the marked secrecy just mentioned, what fills us with alarm is to see the conflicting conduct of Lord Minto at Rome, and the conduct in England of his son-in-law, the present prime minister of England. Lord Minto is doing all that his station and money can effect, to obtain, not only the good will of His Holiness and of those in authority in Rome, but even of the populace of Rome, and also to obtain great ascendancy there. Whilst at home Lord John Russell is not only publicly declaring his hostility to the Catholic religion, as he avowed the other day, in his public printed answers respecting the appointment of Dr. Hampden to a Protestant Bishopric, but that he and his fellow ministers are continuing to persecute the Regulars, Clergy and Laity, both in Ireland and England, acting still up to what he (Lord Russell) lately said in one of his works, that he considered the Regulars no better than "sharpers."

Such also is the present conduct of the ministers acting under Lord John Russell. When we look at the conduct of our civil government at home, totally opposed to the conduct of its representative at Rome, have we not every reason to be filled with the most serious suspicion and alarm?

7. Another cause of our serious alarm is the very long continued hostile conduct of our Protestant government towards the Catholic religion in this kingdom. When a bloody persecution for nearly three hundred years could

not extinguish our religion here, and the penal laws began to be partially repealed; from that period to the present time, and at the present time it is perfectly notorious to all in Britain, that the British government does leave nothing unattempted to undermine our holy Church. We should feel happy to specify what these various attempts to undermine our holy religion have been and now are, should your Holiness call for this information from us. At present we beg leave merely to point at the outrageous calumny now vociferated by the present government, and the members of Parliament against the Irish priests, falsely charging them with being the abettors of the horrible crime of murder.

And further, my Lords, I believe that there is no court in Europe in which it would be more useful for the British government to explain the nature of our transactions; or to induce that court to use its peculiar sources of influence in certain parts of Her Majesty's dominions.—*London Morning Post*, Dec. 15, 1847. *Vide Tablet*, Dec. 18, 1847.

## RESPONSE TO LORD STANLEY'S LETTER

THOMAS STEELE, ESQ., TO DR. MAGINN.

NENAGH, County Tipperary, December 24, 1847.\*

MY DEAR AND VENERATED LORD:

I have read your almost miraculous letter to Scorpion Stanley, with admiration and with astonishment.

\* Mr. Steele writes, as will be inferred in relation to Dr. Maginn's "Letters to Lord Stanley," in justification of the Confessional, as an institution preventive of agrarian crime among the peasantry of Ireland. His style is his own; his veracity as to matters of fact was never questioned.

That letter is "a voice as the voice of many waters, as the voice of a multitude, as the voice of God!"

I most reverentially pray your Lordship's permission to send you a late number of the Tipperary Vindicator, and after you shall have read the passages I have marked, I trust your Lordship will deem that I only perform a common-place social duty: that of not by wilful silence bearing false witness against my neighbor, when I can give testimony, the result of actual knowledge, in his favor.

Although withdrawn from political agitation since the death of my august and beloved friend and leader, I feel it to be a duty privately to come forward to give your Lordship what I believe to be evidence of a very original and overwhelming character, as my position was unique in Ireland, with respect to the conduct of the Catholic Clergy, of which I had an opportunity of being an intense observer.

I am, as your Lordship will condescend to recollect, a Protestant, and a member of the Senate of an English Protestant University; but as O'Connell's seconder, at the Clare elections of 1828 and '29, and his Head-Pacifical of Ireland since the autumn of the latter year, I have had more expansive and confidential inter-communion with the Catholic Clergy of Ireland, in Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connaught, and with the Catholic Peasantry, while in a state of agrarian insubordination and outrage, than any Protestant who ever lived.

Judge Burton while passing sentence of imprisonment upon the august father of his country, volunteered the admission, that he firmly believed that "Mr. O'Connell was anxious to keep the peace of the country, and that he did keep it."

I have been at noontide and midnight among Terry Alts, Lady Clares, Whitefeet, and reviving Rockites; and after I left the Richmond Prison among Molly Maguires and Tipperary men—and I now proceed to prove how well-grounded was the atrocious and revolting lie of Scorpion Stanley, and therefore pray with profound reverence permission to give your Lordship the *rationale* of a Protestant pacificator's mode of producing tranquillization, by the *analogy*, of course I do not say identity, of his relation to the Catholic Priest at the Confessional.

Instead of diffusing the subject over several cases, I select one as an illustration, but that is a very remarkable one.

In the year 1831, during the time of the Terry Alt insurrection in Clare, Jones, Gleeson and Hogan, dressed in female attire, with painted faces, and bonnets on their heads, shot an unfortunate herdsman near Cratloe Wood, and then in open day, danced with their guns in their hands a reel round the body of their slaughtered victim.

In some time after Jones gave me up his gun in Cratloe Wood, about midnight, on an occasion when I was out in the execution of my duty as O'Connell's Head Pacificator of Ireland.

I was accompanied in my work of peace over the mountain side, by my lamented friend, the late Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald of Cratloe, and by a young gentleman, then a divinity student of Maynooth, and now a Catholic clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Considine.

Well, I went to England after the pacification of Clare, and returned in 1832; and in the spring of 1833 I was sent by my bemoaned leader among the Kilkenny Whitefeet.



After the repression of that outbreak I returned to Clare, my native county.

In some time after I heard that Jones had committed another savage murder, and I sent him word that I wished to meet him.

We did meet him at midnight in Tradree; I was accompanied by Mr. Considine, still a student.

I whistled, and Jones came out of a brake of bushes.

On his meeting me, I said, "Jones, do you remember the night when you gave me up your gun in Cratloe Wood, and the conversation I had with you when we were walking alone, Father Fitzgerald and Mr. Considine being at some distance before us, on the night when I got up so much arms on the mountain?"

He replied, "I do remember it very well, Sir."

I then said, "Well, as you do, you must recollect that you asked me what agreement had been made by the Lord Lieutenant when he was in Ennis?"

I told you that "the arrangement made by his Lordship, Dr. McMahan, with the Marquis of Anglesea, was this:— that any of the Terry Alts and Lady Clares who committed only the ordinary outrage of the country, and who, after giving up their arms should return to courses of peace and order, would not be disturbed;—but for those who had committed *murder*, or any crime of that kind, there could be no hope of mercy."

I then said to him, "The fact is, Jones, I then knew who you were as well as I do now; though I did not seem to know it, but my business was to get arms out of the 'Terries' hands, and to save them if I could."

"I thought that after this solemn warning, you would try

to make your escape to America, or to some other country, where, by a life of penitence, you would try to make atonement for whatever you had done wrong at home—but now, after two years, I find you with the blood of another man upon your soul!”

“Where is this to end, Jones; are you to murder every man that you take it into your head intends to give information against you?”

*“From me you well know that you are as safe as from your own Priest at the Confessional; for I told the Terry Alts, and Lady Clares in this county, and the Whitefeet in Kilkenny, that although I am a Protestant, they should be as safe in talking with me, as in making a Confession in the Chapel to their own Clergy.”*

This, my venerated Lord Bishop, is the moral analogy I have alluded to;—and let any one show me the living man, or the man who ever lived in Ireland, who being in the closest co-operation with the Catholic Clergy, and using the magic name of O’Connell as his talismanic spell, did so much as I did, to preserve, or to restore the peace of Ireland.

The Catholic Clergy are, as your Lordship well knows, in every part of Ireland wonder-workers, by legitimate means—without the violation of the sanctity of the Confessional, in preventing murder and other crime.

When I was in this county in 1845, I was reviled as a “Thug” by the *Evening Packet*, because I did not transmute myself into an Informer!

There is very much more of deep interest interwoven with the story of Jones—but I abstain from over-laying this communication to your Lordship with more matters than are

absolutely necessary for the purpose of demonstrating not merely by absolute facts, *but by ethical analogy in the case of a Protestant, the inestimable value of the sanctified secrecy of the Confessional, in preventing or repressing of Irish crime;—of crime in retribution for other ghastly crime, committed by perpetrators who ought to possess moral illumination superior to that of the Irish frize-coated peasant.*

One incident I must not omit.

Before meeting Jones the second time, I went specially to the Palace of my illustrious and ever-lamented friend, that glorious Prelate, Doctor M'Mahon, the Catholic Lord Bishop of Killaloe, and told him I was that night going to meet Jones the murderer, to try, if I could, to divert him from his course of crime.

His sanctified Lordship, not only condescended to express his fervid approbation of my work of peace, and preventing multiplied murder, but he gave me his benediction on my retiring from his presence.

I may as well mention what Jones said to me that night, when he declared that he did not intend to be a second time a homicide :

“ I did not intend to kill him, Mr. Steele ; I had reason to think that he was preparing to give information against me, and I wanted to frighten him by giving him a terrible beating. If I wanted to kill him, Sir,” continued he, taking a brace of pistols from his breast pockets and displaying them to Mr. Considine and me, “ I could have killed him very easily.”

I pray leave to conclude by stating that when I went on my three missions of peace into Ulster, it was solely to warn the Catholics not to interfere with the intended marching

of the Orangemen, then recently LEGALIZED by the expiration of the Processions Act.

Wishing your Lordship, from my heart, many and very happy returns of Christmas and New Years, I have the honor to remain, your Lordship's most sincere and faithful servant and friend,

THOMAS STEELE.

The Catholic Lord Bishop of Derry.

*My Dear Sir,*—I have read with much attention the terms for a re-union of Repealers, and am happy to have to say that they are such as to meet with my unqualified approval. I fondly hope that no obstructions will be thrown in the way of a cordial, perfect reconciliation between all sections of Repealers. It is the one thing necessary for us. Division has ever been the curse of our country; and what we are, the most miserable people on earth, we would not have been, were it not for our foolish, our wicked altercations. Fortunately for us, we can now unite without any compromise of principle; recent events have removed the ground of difference, and have made the feelings and duties of all parties identical. We have not now much left of our constitution to contend about. Indeed, for my own part, during my mission in Ireland, I but seldom had the gratification of seeing its beautiful theory practically and beneficially illustrated. Three-fourths of our people were placed beyond its pale, and depended for life and liberty on the nod of some village lord, who was as much an autocrat as the Emperor of Russia. There was neither

law nor justice for them. The only liberty they enjoyed was the liberty to pay rack-rent, to kiss the rod that scourged them, to worship the taskmaster, and to peacefully starve after, amidst the abundance produced by their own labor. A beautiful constitution, indeed, and proud we should be to have it, with our desolate harbors, our millions of acres of waste lands, and our millions unemployed; our merchants bankrupt; our farmers, if left the name, beggars; the best, the bravest of our countrymen rotting in heaps on the shores of the stranger; the remainder, for the most part, gaunt spectres, flitting over the richest, the loveliest land on earth; the country covered with the ruins of levelled villages; the ruthless exterminator, protected in his savage onslaught by the "horse" and foot of this blessed constitution in the enforcement of his rights against everything which Christianity, if not a mockery, makes a duty; candor and truth made treason, love of country a felony; the seven-eighths of Irishmen deemed unworthy of credit on their oaths, and at every elbow a spy or informer, under the bland name of a detective—such characters as Plautus, with a master-hand, delineates. The seal of faith, under which friends correspond with friends, and confidingly pour into each others' souls the secrets of their hearts, is every day unblushingly broken, and which to violate would make even the barbarian shudder; the whole country a garrison—tens of thousands, horse, foot and artillery, ingloriously watching the convulsions and writhings of the starving victims of misrule, lest the slightest symptom of disaffection should go unnoticed or unpunished; millions, in a word,

of our children, kinsmen, neighbors, all our countrymen, consigned to their coffinless graves; mothers, through rabid hunger, devouring their own children, and children hanging from the breasts of their dead mothers, and all the while my Lord Lansdowne boasts, in the face of an astonished world, of the happiness of the Irish people living under such a constitution, and congratulates himself and his noble colleagues on the more than celestial manner in which they had discharged their duty to Ireland. Let us, Sir, leave this beautiful constitution to those who enjoy it, and combine, as Christians should ever combine, heart and soul, to save, if possible, our country. There is no need for disputing about what the malice of men has made for us, "a mockery, a delusion and a snare." Let us unite to make the name a reality, to make fiction truth, and give a substantial being to what has hitherto been to us the poisonous, blighting shade of an upas-tree. It would be a pity, Sir, to keep such men as Messrs. O'Connell and O'Brien asunder. Their every sympathy is with their native land—their hearts beat responsive. Why should not their energies be linked together for the regeneration of that country to which they both are so warmly and so devotedly attached. Let the past be generously forgotten and forgiven, and let the future be a cordial, united effort to lead the Irish people onward to a peaceful triumph. I here, Sir, merely echo the sentiments of every man, lay and ecclesiastical, with whom I have lately conversed on this subject. All declare for a reunion of Repealers, because disunion has made us the pity of our friends and the scorn of our enemies; be-

cause every man who hates Ireland and writes against it, dreads and protests against this union; because dis-united we exhibit to the world, and especially to the Government, our weakness, and thereby tempt them to use the favorite weapon of the tyrant—coercion; because disunited we cannot aid them to carry out any good intentions, if they have any, in favor of our country; because Heaven, whose law is union, order and peace, never yet blessed disunion; because, in a word, they believe that union alone can save the country from convulsion, from civil war, \* \* [MS. unfinished.]

## ROMAN CORRESPONDENCE.

ROME, *January 1, 1848.*

*My Lord,*—I received your Lordship's kind letter after I had set out on my road to the Eternal City. This was the reason that impeded me from answering you ere now. I regretted very much not to have been able to visit Derry. I am, however, extremely grateful to your Lordship for your kind invitation, and I would, I am sure, have been delighted with the North, had I had time to enjoy your hospitality, but the winter was advancing so rapidly that I thought it necessary to get to the South, lest at a later period I should be impeded altogether from travelling. Here in Rome I find all things quiet. The Pope is well, and going on calmly and determinedly with his reforms. The great bulk of the people are with him; but there are some who are greatly adverse to any changes, and there is a small but violent faction which would drive things to extremities. This faction is very active; they have all the newspapers, and they expressed the greatest delight at the destruction of the Catholics of Switzerland. They are as bad as the old French demagogues, or as our own Orangemen. They will give the Pope a thousand times more trouble than the Austrians; however, I trust His Holiness will be able to keep them in order. If they once get the upper hand, we shall have sad work in Italy. I



dare say the English agents are encouraging this faction. They are bad enough to do anything. Lord Minto is still in Rome. There is do doubt but that his object in remaining here is to open diplomatic relations with Rome. How far he will succeed is as yet uncertain; but if Parliament revokes the old laws against communications with the Pope, I dare say an ambassador will be sent immediately. The English here are most busy in circulating the usual calumnies against the Irish clergy; they even carried their accusations to the Pope. After my return from Ireland, His Holiness sent for me and questioned me on the matter. I explained everything to him, and he remained perfectly satisfied. He is warmly attached to poor Ireland. The object of the English appears to be to destroy that sympathy which the famine of last year excited everywhere in favor of our country, and at the same time to poison the minds of the authorities here in such a way as to dispose them to hand over the Irish clergy to the tender mercies of state management. I think they will not succeed in Rome; but they have bribed all the newspapers of Europe to propagate their lies. Well, we must console ourselves with the promise of our Saviour, *Beati estis cum vos calumniari.*

I believe Lord Minto attempted to speak to His Holiness about the College question, but the Pope stopped him, and said that that was a spiritual matter, which was between himself and the Bishops. His Holiness appears quite pleased with the decision he gave.

I believe I did not express myself sufficiently clearly in my last regarding the pastoral; what I meant was

that your Lordship should publish something in your name to the people of Derry regarding the Pope, just as the French Bishops have done in their respective dioceses. If your Lordship would do something in that way, it would have a good effect not only at home but here in Italy. It is necessary to support the Pope, to show that he should be kept independent both of despotic powers and of popular parties, in order to govern the Church as he ought.

I never undertook to write the address against proselytism; the thing would have been useful, but the arrival of the condemnation of the colleges made the Bishops forget it. Rev. Mr. Dooley engaged to get some one to write, but the matter was neglected.

Excuse, my Lord, the haste with which I have written these lines. If you publish the letter to your people on the Pope's authority and independence, be so good as to send us a copy. I have the honor to be, with profound respect,

Your devoted, obedient servant,

PAUL CULLEN.

P. S. An English gentleman translated your letter on tenant-right to show that you were violent. See what mischief they are intent on.

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*April 8, 1848.*

*My Lord,*—I am sorry that I have only a moment to write you a line. I gave the substance of your Lordship's letter to His Holiness. He said that you would know his sentiments from the letter he had sent to the

Bishop. I hope that letter has not been lost; it was posted on the 29th of February and entered, so if lost it can be traced out.

Here things are quiet still, but there is great excitement—all the Italians are in arms to drive out the Austrians. The Pope's troops have entered Lombardy; God grant things may end well. The Austrians deserve to be chastised as they were great enemies of the liberty of the Church. I hope Russia too will be punished, and England that she may be converted and live.

Lord Minto is expected in Rome to-day—he will not be able to do much mischief. The Italians in general are now against English influence. They have more reliance on the French. I think Lord Minto's money was thrown away in buying popularity. He will get no more applause from the people.

Excuse this hasty scroll. I will write more at length by next post.

I have the honor to be with profoundest respect, your devoted obedient servant,

PAUL CULLEN.

ROME, *May* 8, 1848.

*My Lord,*—I write a line, and a hurried one, to your Lordship, to inform you about the state of things here. The two Bishops arrived here, and had a most satisfactory interview with the Pope. He is a real friend to Ireland, and I think he will actively defend the cause of our Church. The Rev. Dr. Eunis has just arrived. His mission is to get the statutes of the colleges approved. No one as yet has seen them. I hope he will not be able to make any impression.

The state of things in Rome is very sad. You are aware of all the revolutionary movements that have taken place in Lombardy. The people of the Pope's states sympathized very deeply with their brethren of the North, and many volunteers set out to join them. The Pope's troops, too, were so enthusiastic in the cause, that their general could not impede them from crossing the Po and entering the Austrian dominions. When things were at this stage, the radical and violent party here called on the Pope to declare war on Austria. The Pope answered in a magnificent allocution of the 29th April, declaring that it was not his intention to assail any power, that he was the minister of the God of peace, and that he could not desire war. However, he did not say a word against the Italian movement, nor against his own subjects for having entered Lombardy. The radical party, which is the same that was encouraged in Switzerland and elsewhere by England, became furious after the Pope's allocution, and we were on the point of having a civil war in the city. Several cardinals were arrested, and the Pope himself threatened by the mob. Things remained in this way for one or two days. The Pope acted most courageously; he addressed the people, and threatened to use his spiritual powers against his assailant. The conduct and determination of the Pope overawed the radicals, and things have returned again to their usual tranquillity. It is hard to know how long they will remain quiet. The clubs are at work, and they can conjure up a storm any day they wish. The great bulk of the people of Rome are for the Pope, but they are passive and not organized; the

radicals are connected with those of Switzerland, encouraged by foreign influence, and well organized, though not numerous. I hope the people of Ireland will pray for His Holiness, and speak out in his defence. I wish your Lordship would write a good address to them on the matter, and explain the necessity of keeping the Holy Father independent. The public opinion of the world does a great deal.

I regret very much you did not come. It is the wish of His Holiness that the Bishops should hold their next meeting in a synodical form. The majority will then be able to do something efficacious. It is the only way to impede further aggressions.

I received your Lordship's letter, and then one from the Cardinal. His Eminence will not think much of Dr. Nicholson now.

The Jesuits were obliged to leave the Roman College about a week ago. The Radical faction here is making active attempts to get possession of it, and to make it a lay establishment, in order the more easily to propagate their errors and revolutionary doctrines. The Pope has resisted them very decidedly, and the college is given to the secular clergy, if they will be able to keep in possession. The war here is the same now as in Ireland—the bad faction wishes to get hold of the public education. Dr. McHale and Dr. Higgins beg to be remembered to you. Dr. Kirby also desires his best respects.

I was very happy to hear that your convent was going on. It will be a blessing to Derry. The good nuns effect more good than can be done by any other class of

people. Excuse haste, and believe me to be, with profoundest respect and veneration,

Your devoted, obedient servant,

PAUL CULLEN.

Having written these lines at different times, you will find several repetitions. You must excuse them, as not true to copy.

I am at present in the Propaganda College, but I expect to get back in a short time. The Jesuits had charge of the Propaganda; but having been obliged to yield to the mob, the Cardinal Prefect requested me to take the management of the place for a while. I could not refuse.

If your Lordship will read the 243d letter of St. Bernard—it is addressed to the Romans—you will find an accurate account of the present state of things. The Popes have had their troubles in every century. Pius VII. had his share; Pius IX. cannot be expected to get off without them, but they always triumph. *Tu es Petrus.*

P. S. I hope the clergy will be able to keep the people quiet. England must yield something very soon, but it would be deplorable to have a civil war. What a loss O'Connell is now! However, his principles ought to be maintained. Civil war and revolutions destroy religion.

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IRISH COLLEGE, ROME, *May 28, 1848.*

*My Dear Lord,*—In my letter of the 23d of this month I gave your Lordship a general idea of the contents of Dr.

Ennis' pamphlet regarding the "corrected statutes," for the Infidel Colleges. He has labored to have these statutes approved of by the Holy See, and the Pope's condemnation of the Colleges revoked, entirely regardless of the opinions of the great majority of the Irish Bishops ; but, thank God, in this respect he has been signally defeated. A copy of his pamphlet, of the corrected statutes, &c., will forthwith be furnished by Rome to every Prelate in Ireland, asking his opinion on the subject, and thus the dangerous intrigues of a heretical viceroy and his ecclesiastical abettors will be laid bare before Catholic Ireland. Let us hope that henceforth no man will attempt to treat with government on a subject affecting our whole body, without first obtaining our explicit consent. The Archbishop of Tuam and myself intend to reply in our own names to Dr. Ennis' pamphlet, unfolding its sophistry and reiterating our reprobation of the Colleges. We have no doubt that when your Lordship sees this pamphlet, you will, in the soundness of your judgment and in your anxiety for the preservation of the faith, repeat your condemnation of these insidious and most dangerous institutions. In my anxiety that your Lordship should, without delay, have a clear notion of the leading features of the pamphlet, I beg leave to submit the following observations :

1. Lord Clarendon in his letter to Dr. Murray affects to look upon him as the organ of the Episcopacy, nor does it appear that his Grace declines acting in that capacity.

2. He gives Dr. Murray the *whole* of the College statutes, and lends but a very few extracts to the Pope and the Propaganda ! Both his Grace and Lord Clarendon appear familiar with pre-existing statutes of which the body of

the Prelates have no cognizance whatever. His Excellency excuses himself for not having furnished Dr. Murray with the corrected statutes at an earlier day, by stating that the whole attention of the government was absorbed in efficiently relieving all the distress of the Irish poor!

3. The corrected statutes, as they are termed, change nothing substantial in the Act—can themselves be changed by any other viceroy, and though passed into law by Parliament, would not afford the least protection to Catholic faith or morals, as they leave all the appointments of the professors and other officers to the will and caprice of a heretical monarch. Such are the flimsy and insulting safeguards which Dr. Ennis and his Grace of Dublin think quite sufficient to protect our Catholic youth and our holy religion in Ireland, against the power, the wealth, the bigotry, the proverbial treachery of heretical England. Dr. Ennis has presented his pamphlet to the Pope and the Cardinal perfect. It ends with a commentary from himself, recommendatory of the statutes and the colleges. Of this commentary I may say, in general terms, that it is sophistical, insulting, lying and calumnious, of the Irish Bishops, Priests and people. It states that it is very proper and wise to leave all the appointments in the hands of the crown, as the Catholic Bishops might otherwise appoint their own political favorites, or persons totally incapable of fulfilling their respective duties!

4. That for the last thirty or forty years every Act of Parliament passed for Ireland had in view the protection and propagation of the Catholic religion in that country; and that it was necessary to leave the whole direction of the Colleges with the crown, to guard against the unmeaning stubbornness



with which the Irish Bishops would oppose the plans of every possible government.

5. That the government will and ought to proceed with the Colleges, despite of all episcopal, priestly, or lay opposition, in order to educate the Catholic youth of Ireland in a manner worthy of the true principles of the Catholic religion.

6. That all the lay Catholics of Ireland are panting for the completion of the Colleges—that they will rush to them in crowds, profoundly grateful to their generous founders.

7. That the government bountifully distributes £100,000 a year, chiefly between the Catholic Bishops, for the education of their poor—gives £26,000 annually to Maynooth—that too much lay Catholic confidence in religious matters should not be placed in such a government, is too puerile to merit a reply.

8. The commentary closes by stating that in no country in the world is the Catholic religion so protected by government as in Ireland—that we must not be squeamish in looking for “optimism” and insinuates in a menacing tone that whatever the Pope, Cardinals, or Bishops may do, the government and the people of Ireland will successfully carry out the glorious principles of the Colleges! What will the pure faith and simple piety of Catholic Ireland say to this impious and monstrous lie? Is there a parish in the kingdom whose priests and people will not at once assemble, and in a series of plain resolutions tell Rome and the world their real opinions of the Colleges and their patrons? This is a duty so obvious and so urgent that I shall not insult your Lordship by recommending its performance. Dr. MacHale and I are of opinion that when Ennis’ pamphlet comes to hand, a joint

reply from the orthodox Prelates of Ulster would prevent any apparent discrepancy that might appear in individual answers. This reply should be forwarded to Rome as soon as possible. The Archbishop of Tuam concurs in every sentiment I here express, and I must trouble your Lordship to have accurate copies of this letter written out and forwarded without delay to every Prelate in Ulster, who entertains our opinion on the Colleges question. His Grace writes to the provinces of Munster and Connaught on this subject, and begs me to present his affectionate regards. Dr. Nicholson is expected daily. He is the bearer of some intriguing documents, so that we are likely to be kept busy.

\* W. O'HIGGINS.

IRISH COLLEGE, ROME, *June 18, 1848.*

*My Lord,*—I write one line to say that Dr. Ennis has presented to the Propaganda the corrections which have been made in the system of the godless Colleges. The Cardinal has determined to send to each bishop a copy of this document, in order that each person may make his remarks on the case. There appears to be no sort of protection for the Catholic religion in the new regulations. A few words in reply to them will be enough. Dr. MacHale is anxious that an answer should be sent as soon as possible. Write to the other Bishops, and get them to reply without delay.

In Rome we are very quiet. The Pope declared, and declares, that he will not have war with any one; the ministry that has usurped the power is carrying on war most actively. The object of some of those who are

engaged in this business seems to be to destroy the property of the Church. If they can keep on the war for the present year, it will absorb all the Church property of those States. The Pope now has little or no authority; the ministry is acting as it wishes. There are two governments here—the Pope and his ministry. Things will not remain much longer so. There will be a reaction in favor of the Pope, and things will be right again. The arms of the Italians have been very unsuccessful in Lombardy.

Excuse the shortness of this scroll, which I send by hand. I have the honor to be, with profoundest respect,

Your devoted, obedient servant,

PAUL CULLEN.

Right Rev. Dr. Maginn, &c.

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IRISH COLLEGE, ROME, *September 5, 1848.*

*My Lord,*—I beg to inclose a few lines which His Holiness wished to write in reply to the letter which you inclosed to Dr. Kirby. I translated for him a portion of your letter to Dr. Kirby, in which you spoke of the affairs of Rome. He was so much gratified with it, that he ordered the Secretary to write you a line in return. The extract of your letter was published in the *Roman Journal* of the 29th of August. I hope you will publish the pastoral address, of which Dr. Kirby wrote to you. It will be gratifying to His Holiness to see distant Bishops take an interest in his welfare, and to learn that he has the support of the most distant churches. At the same time such an address will rouse the spirit of the Catholics, not only at home but abroad.

In Rome we have been rather quiet for the last few weeks. The great mass of the people is for the Pope, but the young Italians are bold and organized, and though few in number, they can keep everything in confusion. I dare say there are not more than fourteen or fifteen hundred such gentlemen in Rome, and still they have been able to keep everything in disorder, and to put the Pope at defiance for the last six months. I believe there is no great danger of a revolution. The people might be roused to action, if anything violent were attempted against the Pope. Several times matters appeared quite ripe for a change of government; but after a few days' noise, things settled down again. However, the Pope has not that freedom or independence of action which would be necessary for him, in order to manage the affairs of the universal Church. This would be a thing to be insisted on in any address, that the Pope must be kept independent not only of sovereigns or foreign States, but also he must not be swayed in his spiritual capacity by his own unruly subjects.

Some of the young Italians are now endeavoring to propagate Protestantism in Italy. They were displeased with the Pope for not declaring war on the Austrians. They wish now to revenge themselves by promoting heresy. The Pope mentioned this fact last Sunday in an address, which he delivered at the church of S. Pantalio, when publishing the decree for the beatification of the Jesuit Father Claver. The young Italians, or Italian liberals, are showing a very bad spirit. Their efforts to promote Protestantism will have no effect.

I will now mention a circumstance which is to be *entre nous*. The Pope told a prelate the other day that when Lord Minto was here, he spoke to His Holiness about pensioning the Irish clergy, and begged of him to interfere to induce the clergy to accept the favors of government. The Pope said he could not think of doing so; but if the matter be left to me, I will make a proposal which ought to appear reasonable to Government, and I will pledge myself to induce the Irish to accept it. Minto said he would be very happy to hear the project. The Pope replied that the Irish Catholic Church was formerly very rich. Restore half the property of which they were stripped, the Catholics will absolve you from the restitution of the remainder, and let things be thus settled. Lord Minto said in return, that the Queen would consent to lose the last jewel of her crown, rather than entertain such a proposal. After this conversation Lord Minto never spoke any more about pensioning the clergy. If the project should be proposed by Government, perhaps some similar proposal would have the effect of turning the thoughts of our rulers to some other matter, and make them forget so dangerous a scheme as that of pensioning the clergy.

I fear you must be all in a sad way in Ireland. What will the poor people do if the potatoes fail? I hope God and the Blessed Virgin will protect them. There is some talk that His Holiness will define or declare the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th of December next. A great number of Bishops from every part of the world have petitioned him to do so. I wish the Irish Bishops would join the petition. It

might be the means of gaining protection for poor Ireland. We want a powerful intercessor.

Drs. Machale and O'Higgins have written a long answer to Dr. Ennis. They have crushed the poor man. He will get little thanks for his mission. There is no doubt but that the former decree of the Propaganda will be confirmed. The Pope himself has a similar contest here in his own states. The young Italians want to shake off all independence from the clergy in matters of education. The Pope has determined to support the rights of the clergy. He must do the same in Ireland. Dr. Kirby desires to be remembered to you. He is at Tivoli, with the Irish. I am at the ancient Tusculum with the students of the Propaganda. I expect to get back to the Irish College very soon, as the affairs of Rome will probably allow the Jesuits to return. At all events, I could not remain in the Propaganda. I have not strength enough for a very laborious office.

I hope your nerves are getting on well. It is a glorious thing to see religion triumphing in the strongholds of heresy, notwithstanding all the difficulties of the times. The nuns, when once properly established, will be a great blessing to Derry. I beg you will have the kindness to acknowledge the receipt of His Holiness' letter. I have the honor to be, with profoundest respect, your devoted, obedient servant,

PAUL CULLEN.

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IRISH COLLEGE, ROME, *September 14, 1848.*

*My Dear Lord,*—Your Lordship's kind letter of the 26th

of August reached me here in due time. I was delighted in reading every portion of it, but more particularly that which had reference to your communication to the Holy Father. Such documents are calculated to do great service to the cause of truth, and yours has given much satisfaction to His Holiness. We have at length left our final *expose* in print with the Pope and the Cardinals. The case will be discussed on the 25th of this month in a full congregation, and the opinion of their Eminences will be laid before the Pope on the following Sunday. "*Pendente lente*," it would be rash to speak with *absolute* certainty; still I venture to say, the decision will be fully to our wishes. You can scarcely conceive the unjustifiable means resorted to by our blind and unprincipled opponents. Everything that systematic lying, or British intrigue, as well as the base conduct of false brethren could effect, was called unscrupulously into requisition; but the justice of the cause and the prayers of the faithful, have, so far, baffled our enemies and left us high in the ascendant. All will depend on the Pope's *Placet* of the 25th. May it be inspired by the Holy Ghost!

Your next meeting will be of transcendent importance, and I ardently hope that your Lordship and the other *worthy* Prelates of the Province will be in Dublin several days before the general assembling of the Prelates. This will be absolutely necessary in order to make due preparations to meet the common enemy. Probably you will be assailed by menaces, flattery, or delusive promises, and all must be opposed with discernment, courage and perseverance. It would be well, if not necessary, to express deep sympathy with the calumniated, persecuted and half-starved Irish people, as also with His Holiness in his great difficul-

ties. As to the claims of the truth-telling, high-minded, and *paternal* Whigs on the approval, direct or indirect, of the Irish clergy, the extent of such claims will be found in their government of Ireland for the last three years. Bold speaking should be the order of the day, and "no surrender" our watchword. The more firmly you express your opinions, the more will you be approved of here. In every sentiment which I thus venture to express to your Lordship, I am most cordially joined by the Archbishop of Tuam. Minto is hourly expected in Rome! The Archbishop sends his most sincere regards.

My dear Lord, ever faithfully and affectionately yours,

✠ W. O'HIGGINS.

Most Rev. Dr. Maginn.

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ROME, *November 24, 1848.*

*My Lord,*—I received your Lordship's letter some time ago, and sent the letter for the Pope to him without delay.

I now write a few lines to let you know how things stand here. On the 15th instant the Roman chamber of deputies was to meet. Count Rossi, the Pope's principal minister, went to assist at the meeting. He had scarcely left his carriage, when he was surrounded by a number of volunteers who had returned from Lombardy, and an assassin gave him a blow with a dagger in the neck and killed him on the spot. Rossi's crime was, that during his ministry of two months he had restored order in Rome and in the provinces, and was endeavoring to put government on a firm footing. The death of Rossi was considered a triumph by the radical faction. They went shouting like



demons through the streets, and exulting in the crime they had committed. The next day the same party assembled in great force, and went to the Pope's palace to compel him to appoint ministers of their choice, and to require that he should declare war on Austria, and invoke some sort of a diet of all Italy in Rome. The Pope appointed a new ministry, but refused to accede to the other conditions. His palace was then assailed by the mob. Faggots were put against its doors to burn them, and a cannon was planted opposite the entrance of the palace to force a way into it. One of the Pope's secretaries, Monsignor Palma, a most excellent and learned man, unfortunately approached one of the windows, and was shot through the heart. After some time the guards of the palace, who were but a few in number, had to yield, and the Pope is now in the hands of the radical mob. This is the same faction which trampled on the Catholics of Switzerland, and has been encouraged by some of our good diplomatists. How matters will now terminate, it is difficult to know. The Cardinals here, with the exception of three or four, all left the city. The Pope is alone, and in the hands of his enemies, and the enemies of order and religion. I hope your Lordship will write a few lines to excite public indignation against the conduct of those men. They are generally those whose chains were struck off two years ago by the Pope. It is a most deplorable thing that so good and so holy a Pontiff should meet with so much ingratitude. There is but a poor chance for the independence of Italy, when its pretended defenders show such impiety and infamy.

Drs. MacHale and Higgins had left before the tumults here commenced. I hope their success gave general satisfaction. The Pope and Cardinals, who displayed so much courage, ought to be supported by the voice of all Christendom. Dr. Kirby desires to be remembered to you. I have the honor to be, with profoundest respect,

Your devoted obedient servant, P. CULLEN.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Maginn.

P. S.—In writing anything do not refer to us, as there is danger here of the daggers of the assassins.

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ROME, *January 4, 1849.*

*My Lord,*—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 21st of December, and to return my sincere thanks for your most beautiful pastoral letter. It is all that could be desired. I am sure it will produce a great effect both at home and abroad. I expect it shall be published very soon, even in Rome. I dare say the Pope has not fared so badly in exile as I imagined. All the Catholics of France and Spain have put their wealth at his disposal. The King of Naples, too, and his subjects have been most generous, and His Holiness is able to keep up a becoming establishment. However it will be well that Ireland in her poverty should do something also, and that she should share in the merit of supporting and restoring the vicar of Jesus Christ. Should you send anything from Derry, I will be most happy to present it; a bill payable in London in my favor or in favor of any one else, from the bank of Ireland or the bank of England, is as good as cash here. There is no danger in

sending bills, but it would be well to write immediate afterwards, in order that payment might be stopped if the bill went astray. I would be glad to have an opportunity of going to Gaeta to see His Holiness; so if I get a commission I will start immediately. It is only a few miles from Rome, not more than eighty-five.

Since the Pope left Rome everything has been quite His flight quite disconcerted his enemy. The great part of the State has declared against them, and even Rome they are quite fallen. If things be left to the natural course, the very men who occasioned all the evils here will be obliged to fly, and to allow the Pope return before next Easter. The disaffected are only few thousand, but they are organized and stop at nothing. The great mass of them are strangers. The Romans are not accustomed to fighting or violence; they do not know how to resist; they let themselves be trampled on by a handful of ruffians. However, by degrees they are beginning to show a little courage, and I trust they will soon make strong demonstrations in favor of His Holiness. I will write again in a few days, and enter more into details.

I was sorry to hear that your Lordship had suffered so much from sickness. If you could come to Italy, for a few months, the climate would restore you perfectly. After Easter things will be quiet. You could then come, and I am sure Rome will please you very much though things are not as they ought to be. We were never molested at the college, though we never concealed our sentiments. I think strangers will not be molested in the present movement. Of course, religious orders

churches and church property, must suffer, but there is no great danger for strangers. A few months here would take away every affection of the lungs.

I will apply for the facility you desire. I believe it can be got without difficulty. The ecclesiastical authorities here have means of corresponding continually with His Holiness.

Dr. Kirby desires to present his best respects to your Lordship. Excuse haste, and believe me to be with profoundest respect and veneration,

Your devoted obedient servant, P. CULLEN.  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Maginn.

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ROME, *January 14, 1849.*

*My Lord,*—I write a few lines to keep you *au fait* of what is going on here. The city is still quiet, though every one is living in alarm, and afraid that something serious is about to happen every day. No move as yet to recall the Pope. Those in power are circulating all sorts of attacks on him. They have not been able to find any fault in him, most fortunately, except that he was too kind-hearted. It is very difficult to conjecture how things will end. It is even hard to explain how things stand here. After the Pope left Rome, he appointed a commission to act for him during his absence. The Roman Parliament, or rather the mob, refused to acknowledge that commission, and appointed a Junta to govern in the Pope's name. The first act of the Junta was to dismiss the Parliament; the ministry, then, which was formed by the Junta, dissolved the

Junta, and assumed the title of Provisional Government. They have convoked a constituent or national assembly of the Pope's states for the 5th of February. The members will be all named by a few Freemasons' clubs, who sit in different parts. The people take no part in the proceedings. The radical faction is not numerous, but it is active and violent. The good people are quite broken down, and appear to know not what to do. His Holiness has excommunicated all those who have taken part in convoking the national assembly. The excommunication is already producing some effect. A lawyer, by name Ragnoli, who drew up the decree for convoking the national assembly, the moment the news of the excommunication arrived, got an apoplectic fit, and died. An officer who was engaged in the same business fell from his horse, and broke his skull. If no one else will stir in defence of Pio IX., God will avenge his cause. There never was a Pope more deserving of the love of the faithful, and perhaps no Pope was ever treated with more ingratitude by his subjects. Things, however, must come round again. They cannot go on very long as they are. If His Holiness do not be recalled, Rome and the State will go to ruin. There is at present some appearance of a reaction in favor of His Holiness, but it will not produce any great effect for some time. If any foreign force come, there will be no opposition. Our heroes who were so brave against the Pope, will fly like deer.

Your Lordship's Pastoral was greatly admired here by every one that read it. A great part of it is already in Italian, and it will appear next week in the only good

paper here, the *Constituzionale*; at least that paper will give extracts. So noble a testimony to the authority of the Holy See will produce a great effect throughout the world, especially wherever the English language is spoken.

I was sorry to hear that it is difficult to turn to any account the victory that was gained in Rome in the College question. A committee ought to be formed to attempt the institution of a university. Some good laymen ought to be got to act. It is difficult to get the clergy to attend to everything. I dare say it would be useful to found a religious association in Ireland of laymen and clergymen, to attend to the defence of religion and the Church, to promote Christian education, and to protect the poor. It should be purely Catholic. The Germans have formed one on a grand scale, called the Association of Pius IX. Dr. Buss, a layman, who is called the O'Connell of Germany, is at the head of it, and it already counts millions of associates. A purely Catholic association would soon found a university. The experiment of uniting Protestants and Catholics for religious purposes can never succeed. Even in politics they will never pull well together. O'Connell was generally betrayed by every Protestant he put in a prominent position, and last of all by Davis, Mitchell, and Smith O'Brien. At all events, for religious matters, and especially for the defence of the liberty of the Church and the safety of education, Catholics ought to associate. If an association were once well organized, it would soon become very general. It would at least give as good a revenue as the Association for the Propa-

gation of the Faith, and that would support a good college.

Your Lordship will excuse me for writing in a great hurry, and troubling you with those suggestions. Dr. Kirby desires to be remembered most particularly to your Lordship. I hope your nuns are getting on well. They will be, when once well settled, a great protection to religion and education in Derry. Believe me to be, my dear Lord, with profoundest respect,

Your devoted, obedient servant,

PAUL CULLEN.