

195. (1782) A letter from Fr M. Kieran, Carlingford, to Dr Troy. He hears that Dr Troy is thinking of ordering him back to Dundalk and nullifying the Verdon-Kieran agreement. He puts his case for consideration and recalls that Dr Troy himself sanctioned the agreement. After suffering personal loss and endangering his life to bring peace to Meath, he now feels it hard to be asked retract the agreement. Date: 10 April 1782,
From some discourse etc.
196. (1782) A letter from Fr J. Markey to Dr Troy, He refers to an old priest, subject of an enquiry at which Fr M. was pleased to give evidence of this priest's good character. Dr Troy is asked to relieve the old priest in any way he can, Fr M. has much news for Dr Troy but hopes to discuss it with him soon "at antient and clebrated Benburb". Date: 15 April 1782.
A compassion for etc.
197. (1782) Same to same. He complied with Dr Troy's orders. He had hoped to hear of the new appointment from Dr T. but heard from Ardee that in Rome Dr Levins was proposed and failed to get enough votes, likewise a Coadjutor Bishop. Letters from Dr Troy were read (concerning the candidates) at the meeting of Propaganda and his remarks about Dean Levins are causing him to be called "a black calumniator, a poisoned misrepresenter, a traitor to the diocese of Armagh and a diabolical barefaced liar." He quotes the extracts of Dr Troy's letter to Rome that are being mentioned and warns him to be ready to defend himself for his opponents intend reporting him to Rome for slander and prevarication, "such is the fury and rage of disappointed ambition." He arranges about the blessing and distribution of the Holy Oils, Ascension Thursday is the usual day for Dundalk; he will forward Dr Troy's letter to Fr Kieran. The latter wishes Fr Markey to go to his parish for the Easter Duty confessions; he explains the reason and asks for a written permission for that and for the regularising of marriages in that parish. Date; 18 April 1782.
Your Several favours etc.
198. (1782) A copy of an appeal by Canon Peter Markey, P.P., Louth against the sentence given against him by Dr Troy in his (M's) appeal against his sus-by Dr Blake, He holds that Dr Troy's judgment was invalid. Date: 22 April 1782.
Cum sontentia definitiva etc.
199. (1782) A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. The diocese is obliged to Dr T. for preferring a native to fill the Rome vacancy. He refers to arrangements for the blessing and distribution of the Holy Oils and the collection of proxies. He heard from the Cardinal Protector that a Coadjutor has been appointed. Though not of Armagh province, nor the choice of its clergy, the appointee's distinguished character and docile, mild disposition will render him an Angel of Peace to the diocese. The Cardinal also assured Dean Levins that the Chapter's conduct was blameless which rejoices the Dean. Date: 27 April 1782.
The diocese of etc.
200. (1782) A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He send proxies, lists of priests etc and reminds Dr T. of Magherafelt parish, vacant since Fr Mulholland's. death; he mentions the candidates in his area for that parish. He has not yet held the Derry enquiry but will cite them when the Easter Duty confessions are over. Some friends tried to mediate, all to no avail; the case will give three times the trouble of the last, He gave the priests Dr Troy's compliments which they reciprocate, Date; 1 May 1782.
Pursuant to your etc.

201. (1782) A letter from Fr J. Markey to Dr Troy, The holy Oils have been distributed and the proxies received in Dunleer and Dundalk. He enquires if Fr Wall is to be let off paying half the proper amount; he adds another query re method of paying his own pension to Propaganda due 1 June. Everyone is guessing who the new Coadjutor is. The Abbe Preston has arrived in Dublin, so many think that he is the one. Date: 1 May 1782.
202. (1782) A letter from Fr John Wall, Dunleer, to Dr Troy. Dean -Levins told him that Dr Troy was not pleased with him and showed him Dr T.'s letter. He gives a long explanation about the amount proxies he pays. The Dean also told him that the reason why Dr Troy wrote so sharply was because he (Fr Wall) had signed for Canon Dillon; he blames another priest and a friar for that report. He did sign a paper, but thought it was for the Superior of the Lombard College to be Archbishop of Paris, etc.... He ends with "some are looking very glum wondering who the new bishop is." Date: 17 May 1782.
At our last etc.
203. (1782) A copy of a notice from Dr Troy to Dean Levins asking him to inform the Chapter and clergy of Armagh that Dr Troy hopes to meet them on 5 June in Drogheda to give possession to the prelate appointed by Propaganda as Coadjutor to Dr Blake and transact any business relevant to that occasion. Date: 22 May 1782.
I hereby require etc.
204. (1782) A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He heard of Dr O'Reilly's appointment. Some say he is coming as Administrator not as Coadjutor and that Dr Troy has been suspended; that last grieves Canon D. The priests of his district have asked him to inform Dr Troy that they will not attend the induction if it is held in Drogheda but they will if it is held in the centre of the diocese and will ask why Dr Troy has been removed. Canon D. has countermanded the Derry citation because of the relinquishment of same as intimated in Dr Troy's last letter. Dates 25 May 1782,
I was honoured etc.
205. (1782) A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He is forwarding Dr Troy's orders to the Chapter and clergy with reference to proxies he reports that Wall and now Hanlin insist on their right to pay only half. He will have the list ready when next he meets Dr Troy; he hopes then to meet the newly appointed prelate, "whoever he may be". Date: 29 May 1782.
I shall forward etc.
206. (1782) A long letter from Fr J. Markey to Dr Troy. Dean Levins has pledged to his priests that he will not hold any employment under Dr O'Reilly. Fr Markey writes at length on what may result from this and advises on that and other points on which Dr O'R. is likely to be challenged. He mentions the difficulty of holding examinations for parishes because of the length of the diocese, "The candidate in the northern extremity is as great a stranger to the Examiner in the southern district as I am to the Mufti at Constantinople.". Gives further advice for the new Coadjutor regarding money; Dr Blake's pocketing of money shocked everyone "he wouldn't give a halfpenny to John the Baptist were he dying with hunger." Date: 29 May 1782.
The length of etc.

207. (1782) A copy of a long document sent by Dr Troy to each of the Armagh Suffragans, (a translation from the Italian). The decision of Propaganda declaring that the meeting of prelates in Drogheda on 8 August 1781 could not be called a Provincial Synod and giving the reasons for this assertion. Even if it were a Synod its resolutions should not have been published without the prior consent and approval of the Holy See. Propaganda disapproves of many of these resolutions as irregular and improper Each resolution is dealt with separately in the document. Dr Troy adds his own comments on the foregoing. He also admits having been imposed upon in the McDavett affair and explains how that came about. He encloses a copy of the document informing them of Dr Richard O'Reilly's appointment as Coadjutor; Dr Troy will give Dr O'R. possession as soon as possib. Date: 1 May 1782.
- I have been etc.
208. (1782) A copy of a declaration addressed to Dr Troy from 22 priests of Armagh Diocese. They protest against the induction of Dr O'Reilly and of his appointment as Coadjutor to Armagh. Date: 1 June 1782.
- Nos infrascripti Archdiocesis etc.
209. (1782) A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He is sorry for not attending at Drogheda. The attitude of the clergy in his area towards the induction and appointment of Dr O'Reilly did not come to his notice until yesterday He could not go to Drogheda in the face of such opposition. His clergy told him to inform Dr Troy that if any orders are passed on to them through Canon Dillon from Dr O'Reilly they will take no notice of them. Dates 15 June 1782.
- I am honoured etc.
210. (1762) A letter from Fr J- Markey to Dr Troy. He thanks him for the letter from Propaganda regarding Coolay parish and comments on same. Dean Levins refuses to take part in any government in which Fr Markey participates; he means to put the new bishop in leading strings and to be bishop in facto since he despaired of the title. He discusses the attitude of the priests in the northern part of the diocese; these lack ability and knowledge but if Dr O'Reilly were to visit them a few times and perhaps go and reside there for six months his gentleness would win them by degrees. Fr. M's end of the diocese is easy, Levins is backed by only half of Dunleer. Date: 27 June 1782.
- I am exceedingly etc.
211. (1782) A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. The atmosphere in his area is changing for the better thanks to Dr O'Reilly's pleasant manner. The first toast drunk at dinner was to Dr O'R, "Long life and welcome", the second to Dr Troy's health and diocese. Dr O'R. will tell Dr Troy what Canon Dillon said on that occasion. Date. 22 July 1782.
- Notwithstanding the gloomy etc.
212. (1782) Same to same. He heard from Derry of Mr Tegart's work in the united parishes of Magherafelt and Ballinderry, which were such as to determine Dr Troy not to change him to Tandaragee. If Dr Troy continues in this decision, which Canon Dillon leaves to him, it will please many people. Date: 2 August 1782.
- If the few lines etc.

215. (1782) Same to same. On receipt of Dr Troy's letter he cited the Derry litigants to the Enquiry. Dr McDavett wanted it held in Derry, McCluskey in Strabane. Canon Dillon fixed on Cookstown in Armagh Diocese and central for adjudicator and adjudged; the dates are fixed and he will follow Dr Troy's instructions exactly. He thinks that those sending the potulations want to deceive Dr T. and conceal their real plans. His priests have told him that they are reserving the result of their deliberations until they write to their agent in Rome. Date: 3 October 1782.
- Ino sooner etc.
216. (1782) Same to same. His delay in writing is due to his having been on an excursion to the Giants' Causeway. McCloskey has consented to being removed and he and his bishop (Derry) are reconciled; likewise, McGuire, who has also taken Dr Troy's advice. Canon D. commends Dr T. for his efforts to establish the principles of mutual charity. Dr O'Reilly has conferred the parish of Ballinderry on Fr Tegart who is grateful to Dr Troy for interesting himself on his (Tegart's) behalf. Date: 7 October 1782.
- On my arrival etc.
217. (1782) A letter from Fr J. Markey to Dr Troy. In reply to Dr Troy's query he informs him that Fr Tegart was collated without concurrence. The Verdon/Kieran case was heard in Drogheda last week; afterwards Dr O'Reilly proposed to show both priests the report he intended sending to Rome; both declined, saying that they had the utmost confidence in him. Everything is going smoothly, but difficulties may arise when another vacancy arises; if Dr O'R makes a collation Dean Levins will surely resign his vicarial powers and deligate Dr O'Reilly to Propaganda. Date: 19 October 1782.
- Did I make a etc.
218. (1782) A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He thanks him for sending the prospectus etc of the proposed academy (St Kieran's Kilkenny): he hopes it will grow into a College and later a university. If it were opened to poor as well as rich Canon Dillon could send some students from his area: but in the country's present circumstances one can only pray for the success of the pious initiators of the project. He wishes it every success and congratulates the rich people in the south on this happy event which gives their children the advantages of a liberal, Catholic education. Mr Tegart will be very pleased at his promotion and grateful to Dr Troy for the part he (Dr T.) played in it, Date: 23 October 1782.
- I am honoured etc.
217. (1782) A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He thinks that the Kilkenny Academy which will soon open will be of the utmost advantage to religion and society in general; it was badly needed for many years. The Dean will do all he can to promote it. He is glad to learn that Dr Troy is in good health and tranquil in mind; there is great peace and harmony in Armagh Diocese. Dr O'Reilly is back in Drogheda in better health. The Dean and all the clergy reciprocate Dr Troy's good wishes. Date: 2 November 1782,
- I would have etc.
218. (1782) A rough piece of paper with a copy (in Dr Troy's hand) of an extract from Folio C, No 7, of the Armagh Enquiry, the Enquiry deferred by Dr Blake, An accusation against Dr Blake of charging 10/- at Visitation was made. That and Dr Blake's defence are quoted, (in Italian) On the back is an unfinished note concerning Venerable Moneta, disciple of St Dominick. Undated.

219. (1786) (Note: This and the following, while not exactly referring to the Armagh Enquiry, are in that file and the Dominican writing them was evidently a native of Armagh and eager to return to that diocese.)
- A letter from Fr Thomas Levins, O.P. (Chaplain?) to Bom Suceso O.P. nuns' convent, Lisbon, to Dr Troy. He writes at length about his visit following Dr Troy's instructions, to a couple named Vernajoul, whose marriage was irregular. He was badly received and the pair angrily abused Dr Troy; they said that they had already been absolved, he by Fr Dunn, she by Fr Colville. They suspect Fogarty of having written to Dr Troy about them. They have since left Lisbon and he knows no more about them. He writes a long passage about the dispute between Fogarty and Mr and Mrs Butler. (This is referred to also in letters in Dr Troy's correspondence files 1781-2-3) Fr Levins hopes that it may be settled amicably and a compromise reached rather than have the matter go to law. Things are not going well at either Dominican house - Bem Suceso or Corpo Santo. The bearer, Fr Egan, will tell Dr Troy all. Fr Levins is sorry that Fr Egan is leaving; Fr Donnelan will also go home soon. He himself wishes to go on the home mission and Fr Netterville wishes that to, but although he wrote to the Father-General often for leave, he received no answer. He is sorry to hear of dissensions among the Irish clergy. Date; 2 May 1786)
220. (1787) Same to same. He congratulates Dr Troy on his transfer to Dublin as Archbishop. The Drogheda Dominicans sent him the patent from the provincial appointing him their Prior; he accepted and intended going home after Easter when Fr John Markey, Dundalk, his friend, wrote advising him to stay where he was because the Dominicans had now no house in Drogheda. The nuns in Lison wrote to the Portuguese Provincial who has written the Fr-General and he now has orders to remain in Lisbon for two years or more. Indeed, the miserable state of Bom Suceso raoves him to stay; the house faces spiritual and temporal ruin because of inadequate superiors, The Rector of Corpo Santo intended replacing Fr Levins with Coughlan, a boy only finished his studies, of no prudence or sense and a great babbler. He is sorry for the nuns; he still longs to go on the home mission. Donnelan is at Corpo Santo, but only as a guest. Date: 23 May 1787.
- Words are not etc.
221. (1817) A letter given at Dublin by Dr Rd. O'Reilly, Archbishop of Armagh, appointing Matt McCann to Dundalk parish, vacant on the death of Edward Magennis McArdle and appointing Fr Andrew Levins to induct Fr McCann to the benefice. The letter is signed by Andrew Lube, Secretary, Date: 19 September 1817.
- Cum parochia de etc.
222. (1780) (OMITTED from page 2 this file 3a.) A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. Propaganda is not inclined to appoint Canon Dillon Coadjutor of Armagh. He lacks nobility of birth. But, to end the disorders afflicting that diocese Dr Troy is requested to propose another subject, a man of probity, prudence, learning and of noble family. The Nuncio would be obliged if Dr Troy would do this speedily, so that he in turn can notify Propaganda, Date: 1 February 1780.
- La S. Congregazione di etc.

29/7/217 (B) Letter dated 1st May 1782
'Monday the 13th etc.'

223. (1781)

(OMITTED from page 24 of this file; No 121a.) A letter from Fr Peter Markey, P.P., Louth, to Dr Troy. Following Dr Troy's he went to Omeath. McArdle and another man, both on horseback, intercepted him. He tried every means, persuasion, promises, threats, to get McArdle to drop his claims to Omeath. All in vain. McA. refused to open the chapel and set up an altar outside and tried to prevent Fr M. from addressing the people, when Fr M. read Dr Troy's commission, McA. told the people that it was a forgery. Fr M. then ordered him, in Dr Troy's name, not to say Mass but he said he would not obey any bishop or primate. Then Fr. M. suspended him and forbade the people, under pain of excommunication, to attend McA.'s Mass. "A ragged Presbyterian" snatched the Commission from Fr M., caught hold of him and, only Fr M. was active, would have assaulted him. Fr Markey told the Carlingford congregation that it was not lawful for them to have any dealings, spiritual or temporal, with the people of Omeath, He thinks that if Fr McArdle is not denounced soon he will do great mischief. Date: 23 July 1782. (N.B. This should be 1781, as McArdle was excommunicated in September 1781 and died on 23 February 1782.)

End of the Armagh Enquiry Files