

Troy, Armagh Enquiry, File 2 (1780-81)

Troy 29B

1. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He regrets that Propaganda is so occupied with trivialities that it has no time to consider Irish affairs, so scandals increase; he lists the results of this in Dundalk and Cooley parishes, also in Drogheda. Cooley parish is in a state of anarchy. In a long passage he recapitulates once again the entire history of the Dundalk case. Dr Reilly of Clogher rouses the people against Fr Markey by letter while Dr Blake takes every opportunity of inflicting fresh wounds on him (M.); he has now deprived him of the power to absolve- reserved cases. Dr Blake's Vicar, Boyle, encourages the Dundalk Dominicans to administer the parish; one, Fr Thomas, has done this and receives parish emoluments. Fr Markey asks Dr Troy to speak to the Dominican Provincial, Fr Bray in Waterford, about this. In a postscript he says that he has heard of the Abbot Preston's nomination as Coadjutor for Armagh; he would prefer him to Canon Dillon who would be " a mere tennis ball" and could never command respect; he (Dillon) would only make the episcopal character a subject for laughter.

Date: January 1780 (No day given).

I am sorry and etc.

2. (1780)

(On same paper) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the preceding. He concludes that Fr Markey wrote while in a temper, otherwise he would never have castigated Propaganda so indelicately. Dr Troy knows every one of the Cardinals personally and assures Fr M. that they are all men of integrity, prudence, learning and piety. The seeming impropriety and inconsistency of some *of* their decisions arises from the lying informations sent them by interested (parties) in "this wretched country"; these reports confound and bewilder the Cardinals as they would anyone not divinely inspired. He did not hear of Preston's nomination, propaganda's delay in deciding regarding Dundalk may be because they have decided to leave all this to whatever Coadjutor is appointed. He wrote Fr Bray, O. P., - as requested, so Fr Markey may be easy on that score- but he should not mention Dr Troy in this connection.

Date: 17 January 1780.

You were certainly etc.

3. (1780)

A copy of a very long letter from Dr Troy to the Nuncio in Brussels. He has as yet no information on the new Bill (for Catholic relief) when he has, they can see whether it will be necessary for the Nuncio to mediate with the Court in London. The Irish bishops know nothing of the new regulations and innovations proposed for the clergy in the Bill and they highly disapprove of the like. The Bill will be delayed because of the Free Trade measure and its sequel, now occupying Parliamentary time. He describes at length a Bill submitted by Charles O'Hara, M.P. and which Luke Gardiner, friend of Catholics and a close friend of Br Troy, brought to Dr Troy's notice. It would have destroyed the jurisdiction of the Pope and bishops and Gardiner managed to have it withdrawn. He tells of the *Giovani Bisnchi* (Whiteboys) and how he dealt with them in Ossory diocese. At the bishops' meeting Canon

Dillon's was one of the two names forwarded for Coadjutorship in Armagh; he explains that 'farmer' (occupation of Dillon's father) has not the same meaning in English as in Italian (Mercante di Campagna). Dundalk and Drogheda parishes are in a deplorable situation; he cannot understand Propaganda's delay in deciding these matters, unless they wish to leave all to the new Coadjutor. He adds a postscript.... (See over)

OMITTED from this page; 3a See page 42 below, no. 222, 2.

3. (contd.)

In a postscript he says that he got word of Luke Gardiner, the Attorney-General, Hussey Burgh and Barry Yelverton having tabled a Bill demanding that Irish Catholics be granted the same relief as English Catholics. Luke Gardiner worked hard for this. The provisions of this new Bill will come up soon and there are hopes of its success. The name of Luke G, and the other gentlemen named must be kept a close secret. "I would not wish anyone to suspect that they treated of such things with a Catholic bishop". He asks the Nuncio to convey all this information to Borgia, Secretary of Propaganda. The four gentlemen mentioned are all members of Parliament of the first rank, the last-named three being renowned jurists and orators in this kingdom. He hopes to have good news in his next letter.

Date: 24 January 1780.

Ho ricevuta con etc.

4. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. Dr Troy was right to conclude that his (M's) last letter was written in a fit of anger. He had reason to be angry; he cites instances of immorality in his parish; one culprit said he could now do as he liked without fear of correction, having no pastor. In his own mind Fr M. blamed Propaganda for this, hence his outburst. Has Dr Troy heard, he wonders, that Dr Bellew has been appointed Bishop of Killala; Fr Markey wishes Dr B. joy and hopes he may not disgrace the episcopal character; perhaps Propaganda made this appointment to end the Dundalk controversy and avoid offending Lord Clanbrassil. No word has come yet from Propaganda; he tells how Dr Bellew's father received an order from Dr B. on Markey for ten guineas; he did not pay it. Now a Fr Taaffe is trying to get a pension on Dundalk parish; he has no right whatever to this and if Home grants it to T. Markey will appeal against it. He asks Dr Troy to advise him whether he should write to Propaganda stating his case again and asking to be collated, or wait to hear from the Congregation.

Date: 3 February 1780.

The observations in etc.

5. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. He thanks him for his letters and all the news; he hopes that the Catholics of Ireland will be granted relief, when the new Bill comes up he would be grateful if Dr Troy would forward a Latin or Italian translation of its content. Dr. T's warning not to mention the names of certain Parliamentarians forwarding the Bill has been passed on to Propaganda, when writing to Propaganda he praised Dr Troy's commendable efforts in this regard; he also urged that an early decision be given on Armagh.

Date: 6 February 1780,

Son ordinario contento etc.

6. (1780)

A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the preceding. The Nuncio, in a recent letter wondered why none of the Armagh clergy whose names were suggested as possible Coadjutors, were of noble birth. In a long passage Dr T. gives a history lesson, explaining the misfortunes of the

native noble houses and how many sons of business men, artisans and farmers could trace descant from dispossessed ancestors of high rank in an older Ireland. The Abbot Preston, a native of Meath, reportedly chosen for Armagh, is undoubtedly of noble birth, being Lord Gormanston's brother. The Bill is still held up and, because of the Dissenters (he explains that term carefully) are hostile to Catholics, those M.P.'s favour-able to Catholics think it wiser not to press thing, just now; besides, the "fanatical Lord George Gordon' and his Protestant associates creating such opposition to Relief in England have may brethren in the Irish Parliament who would strongly oppose the Bill. Because of this Catholics are uneasy. Luke Gardiner has asked him to meet him "to tell you things I dare not commit to writing"; so he goes to Dublin tomorrow, though inconvenient. He describes Ms Conference for the Ossory Clergy where some, educate in France, wish to introduce French customs; he seeks uniformity in doctrine and practice.

Date: 23 Feb 1780

Accuso le due etc.

7. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He apologises for all the postage expense he is causing Dr Troy. He encloses a letter for Propaganda; this cannot he sent through the Roman agent (for Armagh) who is a friend of Dean Levins and Fr Taaffe. The latter is now soliciting a pension on Dundalk parish. Dr Troy can correct Fr Markey's letter as he deems fit. Dean Levins seems anxious to have his own name go forward for the Coadjutorship and was annoyed when Fr M. demurred. He wonders why Propaganda is delaying so long in giving Armagh a Coadjutor, when the need is so urgent. Fr Thomas, O.P. declared from the altar that Fr M. had no power to act as pastor in the parish and that the faithful might as well confess to his horse as to Fr Markey. He thinks the Dominican's Superiors should compel him to recant these remarks and thanks Dr Troy for mentioning the matter to the Dominican Provincial. If Propaganda grant Fr Taaffe a pension, before they receive the enclosed letter, Fr M. thinks he will acquiesce, "rather than start a new war".

Date: 29 February 1780.

Did not the etc.

8. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He hopes that this letter arrives "before the other is posted as he has learned that Fr Thomas was the victim of a malicious lie and instead of denouncing Fr M. from the altar, as was said, defended Fr M. to people who said Fr M. had been suspended. Fr Taaffe, instead of seeking a pension, is now getting recommendations made to Propaganda, which he hopes Dr Blake or Dr Carpenter will support, that he is the priest most fitted to be Parish Priest in Dundalk. Some people who resent this, are already preparing a protest against him, and another row is brewing in a town that has known nothing else for almost eight years. If Propaganda appoints Fr Taaffe, Fr Markey fears that lord Clanbrassil will oppose him getting the chapel; there is even stronger opposition in the town to Fr Taaffe than there was to Dr Bellew, Such a decision by propaganda would continue an already embittered and over-long controversy; it would prejudice episcopal prerogative and the Irish Hierarchy and would encourage Vicars-General to abuse Vicarial and diminish episcopal power and set Vicars-General against their bishops. Fr Taaffe left Dundalk yesterday; it is said he is gone to solicit Propaganda,

Date: 2 March 1780.

9. (1780)

(On same paper as preceding) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Fr Markey. (7 and 8 above) He sent the enclosures to Cardinal Castelli and hopes that a speedy choice of Coadjutor may end the present and future scandals in Armagh diocese. His (Dr. T's) efforts for that desirable end will continue.

Date: 7 March 1780.

Your several favours etc.

10. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. He forwarded to propaganda the detail given him by Dr Troy concerning the peculiar connotations of the term "nobility" in Ireland, and as an essential in postulations for the episcopacy. He asks Dr Troy to submit other names; at the same time, as the Abbot Preston belong to a noble family, the Nuncio would like to know if he has other qualities necessary for a bishop. He is sorry to hear that the Catholic Belief Bill is meeting opposition but thinks that Lord George Gordon's followers in England are not as numerous as they would like people to think. Lord North has reassured the Nuncio that the Government in London is favourable to loyal Catholics and rejects Gordon's followers and their aims. He commends Dr Troy's seal and wished to know what transpired at the meeting with Luke Gardiner. He read the conferences to the Ossory clergy with pleasure and congratulates Dr Troy on same.

Date: 10 March 1780

Ricevo la stimatissima etc.

11. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Br Troy. If Propaganda's Decree of February 1779 was executed Fr M. would be bound to pay 155 guineas to Dr Bellew at the time of the latter's appointment to Killala. As he believes that propaganda wishes to enforce that Decree he now proposes to pay the stated sum at the rate of 25 pounds a year for the future, on condition that he (M) gets the collation of Dundalk with no other incumbrance. He asks Dr Troy to put this proposal to Propaganda as though coming from himself (Dr T.). Markey's reasons are; to get the parish for himself: to frustrate Taaffe's schemes against him (M.); "to mortify Dean Levins" who has now split with him over opposing Taaffe; as rumour says that a Coadjutor will be appointed at Whit, he wishes to forestall what may happen then, as Propaganda might order the Coadjutor to enforce the Decree. Mr Read asked Fr M. if Dr Troy still resided in Kilkenny which probably means that he intends writing to him. Lord Clanbrassil took his arms from a Dundalk Volunteer for speaking against the admission of Catholics into the Company; he discharged him with ignominy. Mr Mackey of Paris, now Superior of the (O.P.?) Community told Fr M. that Dr Troy is greatly concerned for him. He thanks Dr Troy for this.

Date: 20 March 1780.

Did the decretum etc.

12. (1780)

A letter from Mr Read, Magistrate, Dundalk, to Dr Troy. He is concerned at a report that Dr Blake is trying to have Fr Taaffe collated to Dundalk parish and throw out Fr Markey. This could have bad consequences and renew the discord now happily subsided. If the parish is vacant the Court of Rome has a fine opportunity to terminate the dispute by appointing Fr Markey. To act otherwise would have an effect contrary to that intended and lessen the power and influence of Fr M.'s superiors. No other priest will be allowed to officiate there.

Date: 2 April 1760.

I can't avoid etc.

13. (1780)

(On reverse) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Mr Read (12 above). He knows nothing of Dr Blake's intentions with regard to Dundalk parish, and is sorry that Mr Read has been made uneasy by the report mentioned in his letter. The Court of Rome is always anxious to do justice and preserve peace. Dr Troy knows that nothing coming from Rome will cause fresh disturbance, and he himself will use every effort to prevent same.

Date: 8 April 1780.

I am a perfect etc.

14. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. He thanks Dr Troy for the latest news about the Catholic cause; he hopes that the enemies may not triumph in Ireland or elsewhere; with God's help they will not now that the British Government favours the Catholics. He praises Dr Troy's activity and zeal and begs him to continue sending information. Dr Bellew was in Brussels for his consecration by the Nuncio, which the latter describes. He fears Bellew will be unacceptable to the Killala clergy; no letter of welcome came from them. The Nuncio does not believe that Dr Hervey, the Earl-Bishop of Derry, helped to secure Dr Bellew's election, but it is true that Br B. has acquired powerful friends in Rome who put him in the Holy Father's favour; he heard that the Pope chose Bellew himself, without any prompting, but this he cannot vouch for. No further news regarding

Armagh; it will be difficult to appoint a Coadjutor without causing uproar there. Pie informs Dr Troy that, because of urgently necessary repairs to the Irish. College Louvais resources to meet these are being met by using some Foundations made by Cardinals, so Dr Troy's recommendation of John Delaney for one of these bourses cannot be granted now; if it is conferred again later, as is possible, the Nuncio will notify Dr Troy. The new librarian of the Vatican Library, following Cardinal Albani's death, is Cardinal Zelada.

Date: 18 April 1780.

Con sentimenti di etc.

15. (1780)

A letter from Father Markey to Dr Troy. To omit Easter Communion is a reserved sin in Armagh diocese. Because of rumours of Fr M.'s suspension and Dr Bellew's imminent arrival in 1779, many in Dundalk omitted the Paschal Communion. Now Fr M. cannot absolve these, Dr Blake having withdrawn his faculties for reserved sins; he did the same to the curate and other priests in the town. The people blame the Primate for this, not Fr M. Some say they will never approach a priest again. some are scandalised and in danger of losing the faith. Fr. M. asks Dr. Troy to please inform the Nuncio and obtain the faculties withdrawn from him, to avoid danger to souls. In a postscript he complains that Fr. Thomas, O.P., is again usurping pastoral functions.

Date; 13 April 1780.

The omission of etc.

16. (1780)

A copy of Dr Troy's reply to above. He received Fr Markey's of 13th on his return from visitation. He agrees that Fr Markey's situation is disagreeable. It is no use writing to the Nuncio who does not wish to meddle in jurisdictional controversies unless instructed to do so by Propaganda. But when writing to him Dr Troy will hint at Fr M.'s difficulty. The

Dominican Provincial is a worthy man, anxious to do Fr Markey justice. Dr. Bellew is on his way home, Dr Troy answered Mr Read' s last letter.

Date: 22 April 1780.

At my return etc.

17. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. Propaganda is appointing Dr Bellew Coadjutor of Armagh; if this is so every charge Fr M. made against that tribunal in a recent letter to Dr Troy is justified. Dr Bellew is the enemy and has had pitched battles with half the priests in the diocese. Friends, enemies and neutrals all have the news that B. has been appointed. The Chapter assembled last Friday and appealed to the Holy See against Bellew; they sent a second letter to Cardinal Marefoschi (protector of Ireland) begging him to use his influence with the Pope. If these letters arrive too late a fierce contest between the prelate and clergy of Armagh is inevitable. Fr M. knows that Dr Troy cannot interfere but thought he had better tell him.

Date: 2 May 1780.

I am now sorry etc.

18. (1780)

(On reverse of preceding) Dr Troy's reply to Fr Markey's (16 above). He heard nothing of Dr Bellew having been appointed Coadjutor of Armagh and does not think it has been or is contemplated, by the Holy See, The death of the Prefect of Propaganda, Cardinal Castelli, has disrupted the business of that Congregation, so the letters mentioned by Fr Markey will arrive before the Cardinals begin their deliberations on the Armagh Ccadjutorship. Dr Bellew is expected in Dublin this week. Dr Troy hopes that his (B's) appearance in or near Dundalk will not revive old or occasion fresh disturbances.

Date: 18 May 1780.

Revd. Mr Dunne etc.

19. (1780)

A page obviously taken from a list of depositions as preceding and following portions are missing. It contains

(a) the Deposition of Revd James Bodin that a "crown" tax, pro agens et fam., was not in the Constitutions:

(b) the deposition of Revd James Corrigan on what took place when Dean Devins refused to pay this tax at a conference of the clergy at Dunleer.

Dr Blake demanded the payment and hen Dean Levins refused the Primate suspended and excommunicated him.

(c) the deposition of Revd. George Holland describing the same incidents;

(d) Statement that these depositions were submitted to Dr Troy at the 1780 enquiry.

Date: 16 May 1780.

Revd James Bodin's etc.

20. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio's Secretary to Dr Troy. The Nuncio is away and two queries have come from Propaganda which the Secretary hopes Dr Troy can answer, (l) Since Dr Bellew has been promoted Bishop of Killala Dundalk parish is vacant; the administrator there, Fr J, Markey, has asked to he appointed parish priest; he also wishes to "be freed from the obligation he had, as Vicar, to pay Dr Bellew a pension. Propaganda wishes to know if Fr

Markey's appointment would please the parishioners. If Fr M. is diligent and zealous as a pastor; Is he agreeable to pay the agreed sum to Dr Bellew in instalments'? If he does not agree can Dr Troy name another priest whom Lord Clanbrassil would accept and who would fulfil all the aforementioned conditions? (2) Propaganda has been requested to nominate Rev. Thaddeus O'Flynn, Professor of Theology in Nantes, to an Irish bishopric. Information on his character, learning, qualities, suitability etc is needed. The Secretary adds, in confidence, that Dr Goyle of Raphoe has already written in favour of Fr O'Flynn. If the latter is unknown to Dr Troy will Dr T. please state O.F. 's native diocese and name some Prelate who might know him.

Date: 2 June 1780

Essendosi S. E. Monsr. etc.

21. (1780)

Same to same. Propaganda permitted Dr Coyle of Raphoe to remove Fr D. McDavett, Parish priest of Stranorlar, from his parish for refusing to pay the annual pension of £20 for the past two years. Fr McD., in a letter to Propaganda, says the pension was £20, for which he holds a receipt dated 19 February 1779. If this is true, Dr Coyle is wrong and Fr McD. right. Dr Troy is asked to enquire into the matter, also into a much more serious allegation made by Fr McD. against Dr Coyle; the bishop is accused of grossly immoral conduct with a Protestant lady and of beating up and wounding his Vicar General. As an abortion, a threat to embrace Protestantism and marry the lady in question, are involved these allegations if true are very grave; investigations would need to be conducted with the utmost circumspection and secrecy. Because of the commendations of the Raphoe clergy at the time of Dr Coyle's elevation to the Coadjutorship, Propaganda finds it difficult to believe these reports. Dr Troy is asked to make enquiries or, if he does not know Dr C., to recommend what should be done to Propaganda. Haste and secrecy are imperative.

Date: 9 June 1780.

Avendo la S. Cong. etc.

22. (1780)

A letter from Mr Read, Magistrate, Dundalk, to Dr Troy. Lord Clanbrassil informs Dr Troy that Dundalk people are saying that Rome intends to remove Fr Markey and appoint Fr Taaffe parish priest. Dr Troy's duty to his religion is to write to "his Superiors in Rome against so wicked a measure". If Fr Markey is removed Lord C. is fully determined to leave Dundalk without a priest or, at least, without a chapel.

Date: 15 June 1780.

My Lord Clanbrassil etc.

23. (1780)

(On reverse of preceding) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Mr Read. Dr Troy is very concerned about the peace of Dundalk, so often disturbed by different rumours, He heard nothing of Fr Taaffe being appointed to the parish and Mr Read may rely on Dr Troy's endeavours to prevent disturbances.

Date: 19 June 1780.

Your favour of etc.

24. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He cannot understand why Propaganda, under the last

and the present Prefect, are trying to get Fr Taaffe appointed to Dundalk parish. Such an appointment would renew all the disturbance, since Taaffe was the primary cause of the conflict eight years ago and used his vicarial powers to destroy the Episcopal prerogative, Fr Markey has heard that the main objection to his own appointment as parish priest of Dundalk is that Rome has been told he influenced Lord Clanbrassil to issue the proclamation against the Bishop of Clcgher; in fact this arose from a long-standing feud between Clanbrassil and Dr Bellew which existed long before Fr M. came to Dundalk, He asks Dr Troy to put all these facts before Propaganda. It is now certain that the new Coadjutor will be an ex-diocesan. Fr Thomas, O.P, is again causing trouble and taking over Fr Markey's pastoral functions; Fr M. asks Dr Troy to speak to Fr Bray, the Dominican Provincial, about this.

Date: 18 June 1760.

The longer Your etc.

25. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to the Nuncio's Secretary. By the enclosed letter it will be seen how Dr Troy's eagerness to further the aims of Propaganda and fulfil the instructions sent him regarding Fr Markey have had the desired result. Dr Troy is happy to be the mediator and hopes that the peace will prove lasting. He induced Markey to pay the 480 scudi in instalments over three years. It is necessary, from all standpoints, to give him the parish (1) because Lord Clanbrassil has repeatedly stated he will not allow any other priest to function in Dundalk; (2) Fr Markey is zealous and diligent and the people like him well; (3) he is justly entitled to it; and there are other reasons mentioned in previous letters to the Nuncio. Fr Taaffe has no claim whatsoever to a pension on Dundalk parish, seeing that he was the prime cause of all the dissensions there. As regards Dr O'Flynn (cf. 20 above) Dr Troy does not know him but heard that he was ambitious for a bishopric and had asked Cardinal de Bernis to obtain one through the influence of O'Flynn's powerful friends and protectors in Nantes. Fr O'Flynn is from Limerick Diocese in Cashel Province and bishops of that province would be able to inform the Nuncio on O'F.'s suitability etc. The tragic scenes in London (the Gordon Riots) are already only too well publicised. The Irish Parliament has not discussed the Catholic Relief measures; the present silence is a grace,

Date: 20 June 1780

Dall' acclusa lettera etc.

26. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He asks that there be no mention of the money payment in the collation, "for fear the Earl would ask to see it," Dean Levins had a letter stating that Propaganda was collating Dundalk to Fr Taaffe. The letter was in Italian but the Dean read it to Fr M. in English, perhaps he meant to threaten Fr M. into paying the pension to Fr Taaffe, He leaves all the arrangement of affairs to Dr Troy and will confirm whatever is done, except that he be left in Dundalk and as its parish priest, He will pay the 480 scudi in three, maybe two, years. "Why should I go in debt to pay them? If I died who would pay that debt for me," Most Dundalk people are on his side and indeed he is related by blood or through marriages with three-quarters of the inhabitants. It would be useless asking Dr Blake to recognise him as P.P. of Dundalk; ten days ago he (Dr B.) told Fr M, that he would be revenged on him for appealing against his exactions, Fr Markey cannot find words to express his gratitude to Dr Troy for the trouble and expense he took in his case.

Date: 23 June 1780.

NO two things etc.

27. (1780)

(On reverse of 26) A copy of A letter from Dr Troy to Fr Markey. Dr Troy has forwarded Fr Markey's letter, which was most relevant, to Cardinal Antonelli (new Prefect of Propaganda); he also sent Mr Boyle's dispensation. The Nuncio has also written to the Cardinal so all that remains is to wait patiently for their reply which Dr Troy thinks will be "both agreeable and decisive. He asks Fr M. to keep this private. He expects that Fr M. saw his reply to Mr Read "I heartily hope that it's the last time I have to write to him." The prospect of peace in Dundalk is very pleasant, both for Fr M. 's sake and for the good of religion; he regrets the state of Armagh Diocese but is sure that Cardinal Antonelli will soon establish harmony and discipline there. Date: 1 July 1780.

Your several favours etc.

28. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio's secretary to Dr Troy. Since it is most necessary that a Coadjutor be appointed to Armagh,(seeing Dr Blake's advanced age, which renders him incapable of carrying out his duties, and also the dissensions in the diocese) and since there is no priest in the province equal to coping with the present situation in Armagh, Propaganda is anxious TO know if some other bishop of the province _could be transferred as Coadjutor to Armagh. Noble lineage does not matter so much as prudence, learning and the other qualities needful for a bishop; the man appointed should also be in his prime and robust in health, so as to be able to aid the aged Primate. The Nuncio asks Dr Troy to report soon on which suffragan bishop he thinks most suitable for the office of Coadjutor in Armagh; Dr Troy has first-hand knowledge of the state of Armagh diocese and how necessary it is to find a prelate of true nobility of character, pious, fairly young and in good health.

Date: 29 June 1780.

Cum summopere expedit etc.

29. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to the Nuncio's secretary (reply to 21 above). "When he received the letter dated 9 June Dr Troy wrote to some ecclesiastics of Raphoe diocese. Raphoe is 200 miles from Kilkenny and Dr Troy does not know Dr Coyle. The replies were quite contradictory, some stating that the allegations against Dr Troy were unfounded and a calumny; others saying that Dr C. was one of the coarsest of men" and confirming the report concerning the Protestant lady; ethers were evasive. Because of this Dr Troy thinks that there is need for a Commission to investigate and ascertain the truth; at least three of the bishops of the province should form this commission; the nearest to Raphoe are the bishops of Derry, Clogher, and Down and Connor. As the Bishop of Kilmore is a Franciscan and as the chief accuser is a Franciscan whom Dr Coyle deprived of his parish he should not been the Commission. Dr Plunkett of Meath is very far from Raphoe. The greatest caution and secrecy should be used, to avoid all occasion of scandal. All the provincial bishops should be informed of the setting up of the Commission. The Gordon riots may yet forward the Catholic cause in Ireland, but Catholic affairs are not being discussed in the present session of Parliament, Date: 1 July 1780.

Ricevuto che ebbi etc

30. (1780)

Same to same. He received the secretary's letter (No 28 above) written, contrary to custom, in Latin. He thanks God that Propaganda are at last doing something about providing a Coadjutor for Armagh. All cognisant with the affairs of that diocese realise that the

dissensions are caused by Dr Blake's imprudent actions and government. The late Cardinal Castelli besought and admonished the Primate patiently and repeatedly in hopes of getting him to amend his ways; Dr Troy himself was involved, expending much time and money. It is very difficult and not without danger to nominate one of the Armagh province Suffragan bishops, as the Nuncio has requested, for the Coadjutorship, but of the eight Dr Troy considers Dr Plunkett of Heath the most worthy of being transferred to Armagh as Coadjutor to Dr Blake. He excels all the others in prudence, learning, character etc.; though not robust he enjoys good health and is aged about forty-four; he belongs to one of the leading families in Ireland, the head of which, the Earl of Fingall, makes notable public profession of the Catholic faith; Dr Plunkett's father, however, a worthy man, works to earn a livelihood for himself and his children; this is not unusual in Ireland for men of noble lineage, as Dr Troy has already explained in previous letters.

Date: 15 July 1780.

Epistolam Illma. & Rma. etc.

31. (1780)

A letter from Propaganda to Dr Troy. Concerning the appeal by Fr George Dowd, Drogheda, and Dean Levins, Armagh Chapter, to the Holy See against their suspension by Dr Blake; they ask that they may be freed from the suspension which, they assert, was imposed for frivolous reasons and not in accord with the sacred canons. The Pope delegates Dr Troy to enquire into these cases and grants him faculties to judge, determine and deliver sentence; he can declare, in the Pontiff's name, whether to impose censures, to absolve from or reaffirm the suspension.

Date: 30 July 1780.

Relata per me etc.

32. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio's secretary to Dr Troy. He received Dr Troy's replies to the queries sent by Propaganda and is most grateful. He explains why he wrote (No 28 above) in Latin.

Date: 4 August 1780.

Avendo ricevuto le etc.

33. (1780)

A letter from Cardinal Antonelli, new Prefect of Propaganda, to Dr Troy. Propaganda received appeals from Fr Dowd and Dean Levins against the new suspension imposed on them by Dr Blake for, they allege, unjust and unreasonable motives. "The facile manner in which this prelate proceeds to censures increases the discords so long existing on his diocese. Censures, the very sinew of Church discipline, were meant, according to the teaching of the Fathers and especially of the Council of Trent, to be used sparingly." The situation in Armagh grieves both Propaganda and the Holy Father who willingly accepts the appeal of the two priests aforementioned and commissions Dr Troy to institute an enquiry into the matter. He is to hear both parties notifying them in advance of the enquiry and ordering them to present a statement of their respective cases. He encloses the necessary documents, Dr Troy's prudence and rectitude is well known to the Pope and the Cardinals and they have confidence that he will conduct this enquiry with care and fairness and submit a report to Rome in due course.

Date: 5 August 1780.

Giorgio Dowd, Vicario etc.

34. (1780)

A letter from Propaganda to Dr Troy. A replica of 31 above except that this letter refers to an appeal (against his suspension by Dr Blake) by Fr Peter Markey, P.P. Louth, a Canon of Armagh Chapter. The wording is identical with that of 31 above.

Date: 20 August 1780.

Relata per me etc.

35. (1780)

A letter from Cardinal Antonelli to Dr Troy. The first portion of this letter is identical with 33 above, except that it refers to Fr Peter Markey's appeal against his suspension by Dr Blake. The second portion concerns Fr John Harkey, Dundalk. The Cardinal wishes to notify Dr Troy that the Pope, at the request of Propaganda, confers the vacant parish of Dundalk on Fr John Markey who has administered it as Vicar since 1775. However, he is still bound to pay the 480 scudi agreed for the pension due to Dr Bellew. Propaganda will allow him to pay this in instalments. As Dr Troy has been active in the matter he is to see that Fr Markey pays regularly.

Date: 26 August 1780.

Il Cancro. Pietro etc.

36. (1780)

A long document. Fr George Dowd's Statement of his Case against Dr Blake. The statement prepared for Dr Troy's enquiry; a recapitulation of all that transpired between himself and Dr Blake since 11 May 1776 to June 1780; the suspension and his reasons for considering it invalid and unjust.

Date: 10 September 1780.

In order to etc.

37. (1780)

Copy of notification sent by Dr Troy to Dean Levins and Fr Dowd stating that he has been appointed to investigate the case of their suspension and will be in Drogheda to conduct the enquiry. They are to draw up an exact statement of their cases. When he meets them he will hand them Cardinal Antonelli's letter. (Dr Troy sent another copy of this letter to Fr Peter Markey. P.P. Louth).

Date: 11 September 1780.

The enclosed is etc.

38. (1780)

A letter from Fr Dowd to Dr Troy. He received the notice (37 above) and will draw up a statement of his case with all possible care.

Date: 12 September 1780.

I have received etc.

39. (1780)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He received the notice (37 above) and will wait on him in Drogheda pursuant to orders.

Date: 14 Sept, 1780.

I received your etc.

40. (1780)

A letter from Father John Wall to Dr Troy. Fr Wall thinks that Dr Troy should hear Fr Stephen Carney and himself separately and privately as they have information relevant to the case which occasions his coming to Drogheda. He and Fr Carney, having lived for a long time in the same area as the appellants, claim to know the situation. A public declaration would not be convenient for several reasons. If Dr Troy thinks it necessary to take sworn statements he (Fr W.) is willing to take the oath.

Date: 1780.

If Your Lordship etc.

41. (1780)

A very long statement of his case by Dr Blake in which he refutes all Father Dowd's accusations, denies some allegations and accuses Fr Dowd of persistent disobedience.

Date: 18 September 1780.

In order to etc.

42. (1780)

A copy of a declaration by Dr Troy to Dr Blake, Fr George Dowd and all other interested parties. He had been appointed as Apostolic Delegate for the purpose of holding an enquiry in Drogheda in the parish church of St Peter's on the matter of Fr Dowd's suspension by Dr Blake. Having notified those concerned to submit statements of their respective cases and having held the said enquiry of 21 September 1780, by virtue of the powers vested in him, Dr Troy, seeing that Dr Blake did not defend himself or appear to answer charges, declares Fr Dowd's suspension invalid, (cf. 47 below)

Date: 22 September 1780.

Cum ex audientia etc.

43. (1780)

Form of reconciliation between Dr Blake and Fr Dowd. Dr Blake agrees that Fr Dowd shall remain in Drogheda parish and continue to administer it and receive the emoluments until the final decree of the Holy See be made known. Meanwhile, if Dr Blake wishes personally to administer any sacrament he may do so, provided that he accounts to Fr Dowd for what he receives on the occasion. Fr Dowd, on his part, agrees to pay Dr Blake £100 a year from this date out of the parish revenues; this to be paid in quarterly sums of £25. Parishioners are advised that all dissensions have now been amicably settled; they are to apply to Fr Dowd on all parochial business. Signed by Dr Blake and Fr Dowd and witnessed by Dr Troy. An added statement refers to an agreement concerning payments for the previous two and a half years.

Date: 22 September 1780.

Whereas on the etc.

44. (1780)

A letter from Robert Caddell to Dr Troy. He is delighted to learn that Dr Troy's efforts have brought about peace. He invites Dr Troy to dine on whatever day is convenient.

Date: 22 September 1780.

It gives me etc.

45. (1780-81)

Depositions of eleven priests of Armagh diocese concerning the suspension of Dean. Levins at a meeting in Dunleer 16 May 1780, all eleven having been present. Some of these depositions were made in September 1780, some in February 1781.

Mr Boyle deposed etc.

46. (1780)

Dr Blake's answers to Dean Levins' complaint against his suspension at Dunleer on 16 May 1780. He alleges that the Dean gave trouble on former occasions; that he undermined his (Dr B.'s) authority by inciting other clergy to disobey and rebel against him; that, the Dean kept appealing on long established customs, customs approved of by national and provincial Councils in 1670; that he misled the judges, even the Apostolic Delegate. If he reforms his ways Dr Blake may remit some of the rigorous censures he so well deserved.

Date: 27 September 1780.

I answer that my etc.

47. (1780)

A letter from Fr JohnWall (then Dr Blake's secretary) to Dr Troy. Dr Blake's infirmities and other causes prevent him attending the enquiry re his suspension of Dean Levins and Fr Peter Markey; he asks Dr Troy to prorogue the enquiry until 12 February 1781 when he will appear, properly prepared.

Date: 27 Sept. 1780.

As I find myself etc.

48. (1780)

A long document with Fr George Dowd's remarks of Dr Blake's answers (41 above) to the statement of Fr Dowd's case (36 above) which latter statement was read in open court at the enquiry conducted by the Apostolic Delegate, Dr Troy. He replies under seven heads to Dr Blake's points.

Date: 29 September 1780.

Doctor Blake, in etc.

49. (1780)

A copy of a long document (3 closely-written foolscap pages). Dr Troy's report to Cardinal Antonelli and Propaganda on the Drogheda Enquiry held in September 1780. Incorporated in the report are various documents submitted in evidence including the concordat signed between Dr Blake and Father Dowd (later repudiated by both), When the case of Dean Levins' suspension came up Dr Blake pleaded illness and lack of time to prepare his defence and asked to have enquiry prorogued. Despite objections from the Dean and others Dr Troy finally agreed to postpone the rest of the hearing until February 1781, Dr Blake insulted Dr Troy publicly, telling him not to return to his diocese ever again. Dr Troy recapitulates for the Cardinal the history of the case since 1777; he declares that Dr Blake's age, paralysis and temperament render him incapable of governing Armagh diocese; to avoid greater trouble it is important that Propaganda remedy matters soon.

Date: 9 October 1780.

La Veneratissima di etc.

50. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to the Nuncio. From the enclosed (the report for Propaganda, 49 above) the Nuncio will see that Dr Troy is not yet finished with the affairs of Armagh; he had thought that he was freed for good from Commissions until Propaganda appointed him to undertake a second enquiry in Armagh. He has not heard from the Nuncio for a long time, but the secretary told Dr T. that he (the Nuncio) was well, No special news from Ireland; on the reverse is a note stressing the need for a Coadjutor in Armagh ; it will be difficult to find one; he urges the Nuncio to impress this on Cardinal Antonelli; the enclosed report should be sent sealed because of its unusual character.

Date: 10 October 1780.

Dall' accluse informazioni etc.

51. (1780)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He wishes to recall certain incidents that occurred during the Drogheda enquiry in September, so that Dr Troy may include all in his report to Rome. He lists these. He thought mthat Dr Blake seemed in good health throughout the trial, though pleading infirmity as the ground for a prorogation of enquiry.

Date: 10 Oct. 1780.

This I am persuaded etc.

52. (1780)

(On reverse of 51) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the foregoing. He mentioned everything in his report to Rome except Dr Blake's challenge, which he will mention when writing again. The report contains nothing but the truth. Dr Blake is in Dublin; he is grounding his defence on the evidence of parties who claim that Fr Dowd refused to marry them for less than a guinea. Dr Troy adds some advice for Fr Dowd who should make a declaration that he intends to keep the signed agreement. Dr Blake called on Dr Troy in Dublin and begged pardon for the harsh words used to him; Dr Troy assured him that he was fully forgiven.

Date: 18 October 1780.

There is not etc.

53. (1780)

A copy of a note from Dr Troy to Fr Dowd. Dr Blake has assured Dr Troy that he is resolved to observe the agreement between himself and Fr Dowd. Fr Dowd would fully agree to take advantage of Dr B.'s favourable dispositions; this will lead towards the reestablishment of peace.

Date: 16 (?) October 1780.

I think it incumbent etc.

54. (1780)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He insists that Dr Blake's attitude at the enquiry was to prevent further investigations, Father Dowd, Father Bennett and the parish clerk all gave sworn evidence that Fr Dowd did not refuse to marry the couple. Dr Troy should make this clear in his report to Rome, as Dr Blake is likely to submit other evidence and he has already deputed Fr Cosgrave to marry another couple, without consulting Frs Dowd or Jennett; and he has commissioned. Augustinians and Franciscans to discharge pastoral functions in his absence; these religious have refused to do this.

Date: 16 October 1780.

Your esteemed favour etc.

55. (1780)

(On reverse of 54) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the foregoing. Every particular regarding the Drogheda enquiry has been fully narrated in the report sent to Rome via the Brussels Nunciature on 9th October, except one item which he is mentioning in his next report. Dr Blake told Dr Troy that he would remain in Dublin until 21st or after, to meet Dr Butler of Cashel, who was expected there.

Date: 24 October 1780.

Your favour of etc.

56. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. His long silence was due to his absence, during which he confirmed 26,000 persons in Holland; the mission centre is in a Dutch city, Huissen, under Prussian rule; then he visited all the Dutch dioceses omitted from his previous circuit in 1778. He has now seen more of that mission area than all his predecessors. He finds, on his return that Armagh affairs are as disturbed as ever; efforts to find a Coadjutor for Dr Blake are all in vain. Dr Troy and other Irish bishops proposed Dr Plunkett of Meath but, though his personal qualities were recognized as excellent, the Pope is unyielding on the point of noble parentage. So Propaganda insists that another subject be suggested, one of the Armagh clergy, if it is possible to find one of noble parents among them, and of course all the other essential qualifications, a priest not involved with either side in the disputes in that diocese. The Nuncio asks Dr Troy to do his best to find someone suitable; he also asks him to inform his fellow bishops the procedure Propaganda wishes followed immediately a diocese becomes vacant, how postulations are to be made, the listing of a subject's qualifications etc. Cardinal Antonelli is a close friend of the Nuncio who told him of how he relies on Dr Troy for true and reliable reports. In a postscript he states that he has just received the Bull conferring Dundalk parish on Fr John Markey with the stipulation that he pay a sum of 480 scudi to Propaganda within five years. (This is to clear Fr Markey's payment of the Bellew pension, but the name Bellew may not be mentioned in case Lord Clanbrassil might ask to see the Bull.)

Date: 17 October 1780.

E di gia molto etc.

57. (1780)

Same to same. He has read Dr Troy's report for Propaganda, with the accounts of Dr Blake's latest extravaganzas. He has forwarded the report to Rome with a letter from himself in which he stressed the need of putting an end to the Armagh dissensions and scandals by giving Dr Blake an Administrator, since there is no immediate hope of a Coadjutor, The Nuncio does not think a better subject than Dr Plunkett, Meath, could be found, and he has written a personal letter to Cardinal Antonelli to see if that will have any result. He awaits Dr Troy's reply to his of 17th (56 above)

Date: 3 November 1780.

Ho lette la etc.

58. (1780)

A letter from Fr Jennett, Drogheda, to Dr Troy. The scandal, confusion and violence in Drogheda are as bad as ever. Dr Blake told him (Fr J.) to ask Fr Dowd was he going to keep the agreement made in September; Fr Dowd said that he wanted peace and he wanted to keep the agreement, but asked why Dr Blake had deputed other priests to serve in the parish, so that Fr Dowd did not know who was married or baptized; Fr D. would begin paying the

agreed pension when Dr Blake gave him peaceable administration of the parish, but not otherwise. Each holds fast to his own determination so there is complete deadlock. Dr Blake ordered Fr Jennett to collect the dues in opposition to Fr Dowd; he did this yesterday and the town was in confusion.

Date: 6 November 1780.

With the greatest etc.

59. (1780)

(On same paper as preceding) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Fr Jennett. Dr Troy cannot express his displeasure and astonishment at the immediate and repeated breach of the signed agreement by both Dr Blake and Fr Dowd, an agreement brought about with so much difficulty. He deplores their insincerity and hopes that all this dissimulation, avarice and domineering spirit may not ruin religion. He thanks Fr Jennett for informing him of the situation and he will continue to pray and work for peace.

Date: 9 November 1780.

Everyone impressed with etc.

60. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Fr Markey. The collation of Dundalk parish to Fr Markey has arrived; it is dated 13th September. The Primate, or the Bishop of Down and Connor, or their V.G.'s can execute same. Dr Troy holds an authentic transcript of the Bull, the original of which is in Rome. One clause requires Fr Markey to be examined, chosen and appoints in his diocesan Synod, if there is any such. If not, the simple approval of any of the aforementioned clerics will suffice. Dr Troy has been instructed not to forward the transcript until he receives Fr Markey's written promise to pay the 480 Roman scudi (£120) within five years for the account of Propaganda, but he hopes Fr Markey will clear that debt sooner. He gives other directions as to procedure according to directions in the transcript and asks Fr Markey to try and arrange matters so that there may be no future cavillings. He has heard that Dr Blake is still in Dublin, also Dr Bellew and that both are going to stay with Sir Patrick Bellew. He expects Fr Markey's reply soon.

Date: 6/16 November 1780.

Your collation for etc.

61. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He has not yet decided whether to apply to Dr Blake or to Dr McMullin; the latter refused to give possession in a similar case last year, saying that he would not interfere in the Primate's diocese. Dr Blake will give it when paid the five guineas, "a requisite necessity". Fr Markey does not think that the examination will mean any hindrance. "Dr Blake would give the parish to Caiphas or Judas, once he gets the money." Since Dr Troy left the parishes of Cooley and Drogheda are in worse confusion than ever. The curate in Cooley set himself up in opposition to Dr Blake who ordered his removal. Friar Carney has died suddenly.

Date: 9 November 1780.

Please to send, etc.

62. (1780)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. In Dublin he has heard that the provincial bishops of Armagh are meeting for a Synod in Drogheda, to discuss Dr Troy's commission and to protest against its future continuation; they consider it an affront and an insult to have an

alien sent as Commissioner to judge the first Prelate in the kingdom. Dean L. heard that Dr Bellew and Dr Butler, Cashel, concocted the plan; Mr Halloran, the Jesuit, has gone from Dublin to act as Secretary at the Synod. There will be moves to prevent the enquiry resuming next February. The Dean will keep Dr Troy informed.

Date: 10 November 1780.

Since my arrival etc.

63. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Fr John Markey, Dundalk. He sends the collation and hopes there may now be peace in Dundalk; he points out some mistakes in the copy and tells Fr Markey that letters of acknowledgment and gratitude are in order. He repeats what the Dean told him about the meeting of the prelates at Drogheda, a meeting to which Dr Troy wishes success, he being as anxious as they never again to receive a commission to Armagh diocese. He hopes that, although Fr Markey's affairs are now settled, their correspondence may continue.

Date: 12 November 1780.

I at length send etc.

64. (1780)

Copy of a joint letter from the northern prelates assembled to Drogheda to Cardinal Antonelli, prefect of Propaganda. On enquiring into the affairs of Drogheda parish and the dispute between Dr Blake and Fr Dowd, they set out, at length, the evils resulting from this; the dispute has gone on for far too long and causes great scandal and a crisis of authority not only in Armagh but in neighbouring dioceses. They suggest that nothing can possibly be done to remedy matters unless Fr Dowd be removed from Drogheda parish.

Date: 17 November 1780.

Nos infrascripti Armachanae etc.

65. (1780)

A letter from Fr McDonagh, O.P., Drogheda, to Dr Troy. He delayed replying to Dr Troy's last in hopes of having news of the prelates' meeting, but all was kept a profound secret. On the first day the letter from Propaganda regarding the implementation of the Tridentine regulations in a uniform and disciplined manner throughout the province, was read. Rumour says that the bishops wrote a joint letter to propaganda asking that blind obedience be imposed on the lower clergy; also that Dr Plunkett will be nominated coadjutor within three months; all this is only conjecture. He gives the names of the seven suffragan bishops present, asks prayers for Mrs Tracey, who is dying and announced that Fr Markey was given possession of Dundalk parish on this date by Dr McMullin of Down & Connor.

Date: 19 November 1780.

I delayed answering etc.

66. (1780)

A letter from Dean Levins, Ardee, to Dr Troy. At the bishops' assembly the Bishops of Meath and Derry drew up the documents which had been planned by Dr Blake and Dr Bellew. Fr Markey (Dundalk) told Dean Levins that a provincial bishop is no longer favoured as Coadjutor, but a simple priest; the Dean presumes that Fr M. got that information from Dr Troy. If so he is glad, as he has a high opinion of Dr Troy's probity and knowledge of the Armagh priests, but from his own 22 years' experience he wishes to recommend Fr Peter Markey, P.P. Louth, and Fr James Crawley, Armagh, also Fr P. Jennett, O.P. He himself is

renouncing all claims to the honour though he is aware that many of the clergy wish to have him as Coadjutor.

Date: 19 November 1780.

My information is etc.

67. (1780)

(On same paper) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the foregoing. He hopes that a Coadjutor will be appointed soon and save him (Dr T.) from having to go back to Drogheda in February. He heard nothing of prelates being excluded from the honour and Fr Markey did not hear that from Dr Troy. If consulted by Propaganda he will advise as his conscience dictates, being desirous of nothing only a just peace.

Date: 23 November 1780.

Your favours of etc.

68. (1780)

A letter from Fr P. Jennett, O.P., Drogheda, to Dr Troy. He gives a further report on the provincial bishops' synod. The Bishops of Ardagh and Raphoe were absent and the Bishop of Clogher and the Coadjutor Bishop of Raphoe arrived only for the last day or two. They held three-hour sessions daily, all proceedings were kept secret; no priest was admitted. "As this is winter and roads unfit for travel it must have been something of great moment that "brought them". Rumor says Dr Blake summoned them as he wants to prevent the case "between himself and Dean Levins from being resumed; also, he is bent on having Fr Dowd banished from Drogheda; he 'is asking the Holy See to banish Dowd and to postpone the enquiry to August 1781.

Date: 20 November 1780.

I was honoured etc.

69. (1780)

(On same paper) Dr Troy's reply (a copy) to Fr Jennett. He thanks him for all the news and hopes that he himself may not be sent back to Armagh diocese in February. All provincial synods are aiming at securing a uniform and disciplined observation of the regulations of Trent concerning clandestine marriages, so he expects that the bishops meeting in Drogheda are doing the same.

Date: 23 November 1780.

I am much obliged etc.

70. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to the Nuncio in Brussels. Dundalk parish is at peace and Fr Markey got peaceful possession and signed the legal instrument to pay Dr Troy, as representative of Propaganda, the agreed sum 480 scudi within five years, the first payment on 1 June 1781. Dr Troy has to inform the Nuncio that in all the diocese of Armagh there is no priest of noble birth, as Italians understand that term; the same is true for Ireland generally; this appears paradoxical: it is true that Dr Bellew though related to a Baronet of the same name, is the son of a man in humble employment; now aged and reduced to poverty. Dr Troy has already tried to explain how such a situation arose in Ireland to the Nuncio and to Propaganda. Since the Nuncio and Cardinal Antonelli have asked him name a suitable candidate for the coadjutorship of Armagh (and he thanks them for their confidence in him) he encloses a copy of the reply he sent the Cardinal. The utmost secrecy is imperative, for reasons the Nuncio knows.' Dr Blake vexed Dr Troy so much in Drogheda about his claims

on the Procurator, Nowlan, that he resolved to mention to the Cardinal through the Nuncio; when the Nuncio does so, he might also say that this case should be examined by the Bishop of Meath who is Fr Nowlan's Ordinary and the best judge in the case. He (Dr T.) does not wish to deal with Br Blake any more; Dr B. and others now state that Dr Troy intrigued to get himself appointed Commissioner; the Suffragans at their meeting in Drogheda censured Dr Troy's conduct of the enquiry, but he is willing to submit his conduct to the most rigorous examination. He hopes that Propaganda will appoint an Administrator for Armagh; to have to return there in February would mean endless loss of time and money and involve much fatigue. Having written to the Archbishops of Dublin and Cashel about nominating able subjects for vacant sees, it will not be necessary to advise others. He concludes by an appeal for the greatest secrecy. "If anyone here came to suspect the contents of this letter or of mine to Cardinal Antonelli 21 August 1780, woe is me."

Date: 26 November 1780.

Non ho potuto etc.

71. (1780)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Fr Markey, Dundalk. Fr. M. should write to both the Nuncio and Cardinal Antonelli thanking them for the collation of the parish, informing them that he got possession peaceably and promising to pay the 480 scudi. Dr Troy thought that Fr Markey would have written him when he got possession of the parish and wonders at his silence which may be due to peace in Dundalk.

Date: 30 November 1780.

I forgot to mention etc.

72. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey, Dundalk, to Dr Troy. He got possession of the parish on 19 November from Dr McMullin, Down & Conor, with Dr Blake's approval - given on certain conditions. He describes how he was received when he presented himself at the Drogheda Synod and how Dr Plunkett and the Bishop of Derry took his part against Dr Blake, who attacked him. Dean Levins and Fr Taaffe are enraged (because Fr Markey has got Dundalk) and are threatening him, Fr Markey hopes Dean Levins will never be considered by Propaganda for Armagh. Both sides are now displeased with Dr Troy's conduct of the Armagh enquiry. Those opposed to Dr Blake hope that Dr Troy will return and resume the enquiry in February; if he (Dr T.) comes, there are bound to be protests. Propaganda's statement that a priest "of noble birth" can be appointed for Armagh seems to suggest that Rome wants Preston appointed, Fr Markey's cousin in Paris Irish College and the other superiors are all working for Preston, but no one in Armagh will ask for him; all in Armagh who know him say that he (P.) is unfit to be archbishop. It would be fatal if Levins were elected; one whom Levins recommends is giddy and dissipated, seldom sober; the other is zealous and pious but lacks learning' the latter is Dean Levins' nephew. Fr Markey thanks Dr Troy for all he did for him; he adds a confidential note saying that Levins is sure his nephew will be appointed because Dr Carpenter of Dublin recommended him when the Nuncio asked him to recommend someone for Armagh.

Date: 3 December 1780.

The 19 November etc.

73. (1780)

A letter from Fr Jennett to Dr Troy. He reports on the Drogheda assembly. It was planned by Drs Butler, Plunkett, Bellew and some Dublin ex-Jesuits. The following resolutions were

passed: (1) Valentine Bodkin was chosen as Roman agent for the northern bishops: (2) Fr Dowd to be removed from Drogheda for reasons stated. (3) Armagh enquiry to be postponed until early August 1781 when all the bishops will attend. He does not know what was decided about clandestine marriages as it seems that was regarded as the least important item on the agenda. Rumour says that the bishops begged Dr Blake to appoint a Coadjutor, which he absolutely refused, and that Drs Plunkett and McDavitt, who had hoped to be appointed, were disappointed; it is said that Dr Bellew still has hopes of acquiring that dignity. Drogheda is quiet.

Date: 11 December 1780.

Ever since I was etc.

74. (1780)

(On reverse of preceding) Dr Troy's reply to Fr Jennett. He thanks him for the report sent and would be grateful for a copy of the postulation for Fr Bodkin's appointment as Roman agent. He hopes that all parties may sacrifice something to obtain the blessing of peace.

Date: 23 December 1780.

I have been duly etc.

75. (1780)

A letter from Fr Markey to Dr Troy. He encloses letters he has written to the Nuncio and Cardinal Antonelli and asks Dr Troy to alter them as he thinks fit. The bishops are annoyed because, despite all the precautions they took, a copy of their resolutions at Drogheda has got into the hands of the Chapter. Fr Markey feels sure that Dr Plunkett wishes he had not been at the assembly. He asks Dr Troy to return the letters so that they may bear the Dundalk postmark and he thanks him for warning him to write them.

Date: 13 December 1780.

Re the enclosed etc.

76. (1780)

A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Fr Markey's two letters (72 and 75 above). He has no wish whatever to leave Ossory where he enjoys peace and quiet. He thinks Fr Markey's letter to the Nuncio should have "been more respectful and complaisant; the Nuncio did much to secure Dundalk parish for Fr M. The threatening letters he wrote were official and written on receipt of orders from Propaganda. "Write to him on gilt paper, and do not seal your letter to Cardinal Antonelli, thereby you at once evidence your respect and confidence." Dr Troy cannot imagine why Dean Levins threatens to disturb Fr Markey; Fr M. may reply on Dr Troy's support since his (Dr T.'s) reputation is connected with Fr Markey's interest. Since the bishops' resolutions have been made public, he would like a copy of them; he is sure that their Lordships are displeased re the breach of secrecy.

Date: 20 December 1780.

I have before me etc.

77. (1780)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. He received Dr Troy's November letter with Fr Markey's signed promise to repay the 480 scudi to Propaganda within five years; he hopes Fr M. will be strictly faithful to that promise. He has informed Propaganda that a subject of noble birth cannot be found in Ireland for promotion to the episcopate; the Archbishops of Dublin and Cashel confirmed this; so, in recommending a Coadjutor for Armagh, the Nuncio thinks the 'noble birth' qualification may be discounted and he feels sure that Dr Plunkett of

Meath will be chosen. He thanks Dr Troy for the copy of the letter sent to Cardinal Antonelli; its highly confidential contents will not be disclosed by the Nuncio. He is writing Propaganda in support of Dr Troy's suggestion that the dispute between Dr Blake and Fr Nowlan be entrusted to Dr Plunkett since N. is in Dr P.'s diocese (Meath). He has seen the letters gone on, through him, to propaganda from the Drogheda assembly; one asked that Propaganda put an end to the Drogheda controversy, the other for a postponement of the enquiry. There was no reference to Dr Troy's conduct of the enquiry; even if there were Cardinal Antonelli thinks too highly of Dr Troy to give immediate credence to any accusation against him.

Date: 18 December 1780.

Con piacere ho etc.

78. (1781)

A letter from Fr Jennett to Dr Troy, The disputes seem to be subsiding, at least there are no rows in public and no scandal. A reply from Propaganda to the resolutions sent from the assembly is expected soon; Fr Dowd heard that Propaganda is in his (D's) favour. He encloses the copy of the bishops' resolutions; as there became known almost immediately, a counter-letter went to Propaganda almost as soon as the bishops'. Dr Blake told Fr Jennett that Fr McArdle, C.C., Cooley, persecutes his parish priest; although the V.G. suspended McA. on Dr Blake's orders, McA. refuses to obey because the suspension is not in Dr Blake's hand (N.B. Dr Blake was paralysed at this time). Infamous reports circulate about McA. and Fr J. is surprised that no effectual steps are taken against him. He hopes that Rome will soon put an end to the dissensions in Drogheda.

Date: 5 January 1781

With singular satisfaction etc.

79. (1781)

A letter from Propaganda to Dr Troy. His long and detailed report on the Armagh enquiry (cf. 49 above) is praised, also his zeal and charity, especially when provoked by Dr Blake. He is exhorted to [...] and resume the enquiry- no matter what harsh treatment he receives from 'that intractable unmanageable prelate". They agree with Dr Troy that order will never be restored in Armagh until a Coadjutor or Administrator of the diocese is appointed. Only that objections arose in the case of subjects already proposed an appointment would have long since been made. The Nuncio will inform Dr Troy confidentially of a new objection against Dr Plunkett; it is most necessary to appoint a reliable person to such an important See. All this will be considered at a General Meeting of Propaganda; all the Cardinals are pleased with Dr Troy's conduct of the enquiry and with his spirit of cooperation with Propaganda. They send him good wishes.

Date: 6 Jan 1781.

Dal lungo e dettagliaio etc.

79 A.

79 B. (1780)

Letter dated 2nd March 1780

I hope the....

79 C. (1780)

Letter dated 30th March 1780

Did the...

80. (1781)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. The letter he encloses will show Propaganda's thinking on the Armagh affair. The Nuncio was told, in confidence, that a malevolent person made a suggestion to the Holy See; this was what initiated the opposition to Mgr Plunkett. Dr P. was accused of being too friendly with "Milord Hervey", the latter "being the framer of the oath formula proposed recently for the Catholic clergy and already taken by many in hopes of revoking the penal laws. Dr Troy is to enquire secretly and find out exactly what truth is in these reports (about Dr Plunkett) and let the Nuncio know in confidence. He relies on Dr Troy's tact and judgment.

Date: 23 January 1781.

Dalla lettera che etc.

81. (1781)

(On reverse of preceding) Dr Troy's reply to the Nuncio. He received the Nuncio's, also the enclosure from Cardinal Antonelli. In a letter already forwarded to the Nuncio (84 below) the latter will see that it is impossible to resume the enquiry in February. Dr Troy regrets to say that there is some foundation for the report that Dr Plunkett is friendly with Dr Hervey, Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry; Dr Butler of Cashel and Dr Bellow of Killala are also friendly with Hervey, are suspected of corresponding with him and of intriguing. This matter deserves censure, but needs careful handling, because grave danger could result from mentioning it openly. It is true that Dr Plunkett took the famous oath, but so did many other prelates, thinking thereby to obtain revocation of the penal laws; and all the bishops will be constrained to take it by the government. If Dr P. were to be excluded from Armagh for this, all the Irish bishops should be deposed from their Sees. This oath serves some people as a means of attaining their aims, e.g. Dr Davitt, Derry, and Dean Levins, Armagh. "God grant that neither be proposed for Armagh". When writing to Cardinal Antenallii, the Nuncio is to assure him that Dr Troy appreciates the confidence His Eminence has placed in him, as expressed in his letter. Dr Troy's great friend, Luke Gardiner, M.P. has been made a Privy Councillor of the Cabinet and may soon go to the House of Lords.

Date: 12 February 1781.

In questo medesimo etc.

82. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins, Ardee, to Dr Troy, He left to Fr Jennett the task of reporting to Dr Troy on the bishops' resolutions. As the 12 February is drawing near, he wonders did the bishops put a stop to the meeting scheduled for that date (resumption of the Armagh enquiry). If not, it is time for Dr Troy to notify witnesses etc.

Date: 1 February 1781.

Mr Markey of Dundalk etc.

83. (1781)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dr Blake. Dr Troy notifies Dr Blake that it will be impossible for him to resume the enquiry on 12 Feb. as arranged, as a serious matter requires that he remain in his own diocese He cannot attend at Drogheda until after Easter at a date he will specify in good time; he is also notifying Dean Levins, Fr Peter Markey and Propaganda.

Date: 5 February 1781.

Notwithstanding the earnest etc.

84. (1781)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to the Nuncio. He delayed writing as he was awaiting instructions from Propaganda regarding the Armagh Enquiry. Because of a situation in his diocese he cannot now resume until after Easter and has notified the protagonists of this. Besides, unless Propaganda gives him a new order he will not be accepted by the northern bishops. He must have this and precise instructions. The bishops' request that they be present at the final stages of enquiry is a pretext for postponement. He heartily wishes that Propaganda would dispense him from going to Armagh again, and depute a visitor or Apostolic Administrator for that diocese.

Date: 8 February 1781.

Ho tardato di etc.

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85. (1781)

A letter from Fr McDonagh, Drogheda, to Dr Troy. Dr Blake denies having received Dr Troy's notification of deferral of February meeting; he is in the habit of denying receipt of letters unless these are delivered to him by some witness; he also denies that he begged Dr Troy last September to prorogue the Enquiry and is trying to make people believe that Rome has stopped Dr Troy from proceeding with the trial. The bishops asked to have it postponed and the news of its postponement makes it appear as though they succeeded; however, it is well known in Drogheda that their letter gave great offence in Home, when next Dr Troy is in Drogheda he will have a copy of the bishops' letter to Rome. "All our gentlemen" (the Dominicans) are well.

Date: 9 March 1781.

I often proposed writing etc.

86 (1781)

A memo. by Fr Dowd, Drogheda on the income and expenses of St Peter's parish, Drogheda, "during the year of peace". He expended far more than he received in dues.

Date: 1781.

The priest in etc.

87. (1781)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. He got Dr Troy's February letters and reported all to Cardinal Antonelli, including Dr Troy's remarks re the resumption of the Armagh enquiry. The Nuncio will use with caution and reserve what Dr Troy told him regarding Dr Plunkett as the matter requires to be treated with justification and prudence. He is glad to hear of Luke Gardiner's promotion; it will be of great advantage to the Catholic cause to have so distinguished a man as protector of Catholic interests.

Date: 17 March 1781.

Le due sue etc.

88. (1781)

A letter from Michele Causati (an old friend, now in the Brussels Nunciature to Dr Troy. Although he has not heard from Dr Troy for a long time, he hears of him, through the Nuncio and is glad that he enjoys good health. He would like a complete list of the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, their names, dioceses etc and would be much obliged if Dr Troy could send on such a list.

Date: 17 March 1761.
Permetta. Mons. Mio etc.

89. (1781)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dr Blake. He intends to resume the enquiry on 23 April as commissioned from Rome. The matters at issue between Dr Blake and Dean Levins and Canon Markey will be heard on the 24th April at 11 a.m. in the usual place. Dr Troy will expect the attendance of all concerned in order to come to a final decision without further delay. (A note on the back states that Dr Troy, on 1 April, sent duplicates of this letter and similar notices for Dean Levins and Canon Markey to Fr P.Jennett, with instructions to deliver each personally and notify Dr Troy that he has done so.)

Date: 31 March 1781.

Agreeable to my etc.

90. (1781)

A copy of a note from Dr Troy to Fr Mc Donagh informing him that he has sent the notices of resumption of enquiry and sent duplicates of the letter to Fr Jennett for delivery to those concerned. He hopes to be in Drogheda on Monday 23 April for meeting on 24th.

Date: 2 April 1781.

Before this shall etc.

91. (1731)

A letter from Fr Jennett to Dr Troy. He delivered all the letters as instructed. Judging from Dr Blake's expression when he read his, all will go well at the enquiry.

Date: 5 April 1731

I was honoured etc.

92. (1781)

Same to same. He delivered the remaining letters.

Date: 6 April 1781.

Last year I had etc.

93. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy, He got the notice and will attend the enquiry punctually and notify others concerned. He is glad that duplicate letters went to Dr Blake who does not seem to want the enquiry; he is apt to forget what cannot be proved against him; duplicate letters oblige him to acknowledge canonical notices. It is said that he ignored Dr Troy's letter of 6 February.

Date: 6 April 1781.

I received yours etc.

94. (1781)

A letter from Canon Peter Markey to Dr Troy acknowledging the notice of the enquiry. He will attend on 24 April.

Date: 6 April 1781.

Your Lordship's favour etc.

95. (1781)

A letter from Fr John Markey (Dundalk) to Dr Troy. Dr Blake seems inclined for a reconciliation with Fr Dowd and the clergy; this may be a ploy to impose on Dr Troy again and boast of his victory over "the fryar of Ossory". Some say that Dr B. has been reprimanded by Rome but he is used to that and has become callous; others say that he's repenting in order to be able to die in peace. Fr Markey doubts this; sincere repentance would entail the removal of Fr Boyle and the "infamous curate of Cooley".

Date: 14 April 1781.

I have only just etc.

96. (1781)

(On reverse of 95) Copy of Dr Troy's reply to Fr J. Markey. He is back in Kilkenny and has sent Cardinal Antonelli receipt for the £24 Fr M. paid him in Drogheda.

Date: 8 May 1781

I am here since etc.

97. (1781)

A copy of Dean Levins' statement of his case submitted at the resumed enquire-on 24 April. He recounts the circumstances of his suspension by Dr Blake the previous year; the suspension was not in accordance with Canon Law - he quotes the canonical regulations broken. He attributes all the trouble in Armagh to abuses condoned by Dr Blake and to the latter's frequent and extended absences from the diocese etc. etc.

Date: 24 April 1731.

Dr Blake's answer etc.

98. (1781)

A letter from the Nuncio to Dr Troy. He encloses an order from Propaganda to be given to Dr Blake. Since Dr B. persists in quibbling and protesting he is commanded to obey the Papal Decree without question and to leave the Lewd and Levins cases to the appointed judge (Dr T.) The latter is to proceed with his commissioned enquiry at once; duplicates of these orders are to be sent to Dr Blake to make certain that he gets them. It is to be hoped that the enquiry will be concluded this time and that Dr Troy will not be again insulted. A report on the enquiry is eagerly awaited. Fr Markey's payment to Propaganda is not forgotten by the Nuncio.

Date: 17 April 1781.

Mi ordena la etc.

99. (1781)

(On reverse of 98) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the Nuncio. He has nothing to add to the enclosed report on Armagh; he asks the Nuncio to request Cardinal Antonelli to relieve him from office of Apostolic Commissioner to that diocese. The letter has been forwarded to Dr Blake. In the list of priests sent to the Abbe Causati there is an error which Dr Troy now corrects. News of an appointment for the Coadjutorship in Kildare Leighlin is expected soon. Dr Troy and other Leinster bishops recommended Archdeacon O'Reilly for that vacancy.

Date: 5 May 1781.

Non avendo altro etc.

100. (1781)

A declaration signed by eight priests of Armagh diocese certifying what happened at the opening of the Armagh Enquiry in Drogheda on 24 April 1781. The moment the enquiry opened Dr Blake interrupted, and protested against the terms of the Commission. He kept this up , "but on being asked by Dr Troy to put his protest in writing he refused and left the hall. Later he sent Fr Edward Boyle to represent him and to protest against anything that might be said or decided in the assembly; asked to put this in writing, Fr Boyle said he would have to consult Dr Blake. He left the meeting but did not return.

Date: 24 April 1781.

I hereby certify etc.

101. (1781)

Statement of appeal by Canon Peter Markey, Louth, against Dr Blake, to be submitted at the resumed Enquiry. He describes his suspension which he held to be uncanonical; he quotes Canon law regulations re suspension.

Date: 24 April 1781

Cum die 18 etc.

102. (1781)

A copy of a letter written by Dr Troy to Dr Blake at 7 a.m. on the morning of 25 April 1781. He is disappointed at the attitude Dr Blake adopted at the opening of the enquiry which was very disrespectful to the Holy See and ungrateful to Dr Troy. Dr Troy has to follow his instructions and intends resuming the enquiry at 11 today; in his function as Apostolic Delegate he requires Dr Blake's attendance.

Date: 25 April 1781.

After the many etc.

103. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He hopes that Dr Troy arrived safely in Dublin and reminds him about Canon P. Markey's case, which may now need a separate Commission, for Propaganda does not decide it. Dean Levins will inform the Armagh clergy of the need to reimburse Dr Troy for the expenses he incurred; he hopes that Dr Troy will be back soon to redress their remaining grievances.

Date: 29 April 1781.

Wishing to be etc.

104. (1781)

Two copies of a long document. Dr Troy's report to Propaganda on the proceedings in Drogheda at the resumed Armagh Enquiry 24 and 25 April 1781 and his decision on the Blake v Levins case.

Date: 27 April 1761.

Cum ex audientia etc.

105. (1781)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dean Levins in reply to 103 above. He encloses a declaration for Canon P. Markey who did well to withdraw his appeal in the circumstances; otherwise Dr Troy would have had to write a report to Canon Markey's disadvantages He explains why he could not accept that appeal without contravening the terms of his Commission.

Date: 30 April 1781.

I arrived here etc.

106. (1781)

A declaration by Dr Troy stating that when he gave final judgment on Fr Peter Markey's case on 27 April 1781 (relevant to Fr Markey's suspension by Dr Blake on 18 May 1780) the other matters concerning Fr Markey and his appeal to Rome were not defined.

Date: 30 April 1781.

Precibus R.D. Petri etc.

107. (1781)

A copy of Dr Troy's report to Cardinal Antonelli and Propaganda on the resumed Armagh Enquiry, Dr Blake's strange conduct has already been related in the formal report forwarded (cf. 104 above). He indicates the sections of that report which (a) give his decision on the Levins v Blake dispute; (b) concerning Fr Peter Markey's appeal. He suggests possible solutions to the Dowd-Blake dispute and draws attention to certain abuses prevalent in Armagh diocese in appointments of the clergy; these lead to controversy and their effects are widespread, all the prelates suffer from them.

Date: 5 May 1781.

Ricevuta che ebbero etc.

108. (1781)

(On same paper) A copy of a letter from Cardinal Antonelli to Dr Blake, Dr Troy is the appointed Apostolic Delegate and, as such, entitled to give judgment in the Levins-Blake dispute, Dr T. is fully empowered by the Pope to pronounce sentence and Dr Blake cannot refuse to accept his decision without grave insult and injury to the Holy See,

Date: 31 March 1781.

Cum fore sperabat etc.

109. (1781)

Copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dr Blake, Propaganda has come to certain decisions regarding Armagh and commanded Dr Troy to make these known to Dr Blake and his clergy, Dr Troy will attend at Drogheda for this purpose on 12 June 1781 at 10 a.m. He is sure that Dr Blake will give timely notice to both the secular and regular clergy. (A note on back states that similar notices have gone to Dean Levins, Ardee, and Canon Dillon, Dungannon.

Date: 2 June 1781.

His Holiness and etc.

110. (1781)

(On same paper) Copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Fr Jennett, Drogheda, instructing him to deliver the enclosed duplicate letter personally to Dr Blake.

Date: 2 June 1781.

The enclosed is etc.

111. (1781)

A note from Fr Jennett to Dr Troy informing him that he delivered the letter to Dr Blake; Dr B. acknowledged same and told Fr Jennett to inform Dr Troy that he would attend; Fr Jennett does not think Dr Blake will write to acknowledge receipt of letter.

Date: 5 June 1781.

I was this day etc.

112. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He received the notice re the meeting on 12 June and notified all clergy. He heard from Home that Propaganda's decision is to appoint Dr Troy Administrator of Armagh Diocese.

Date: 7 June 1781.

Your esteemed favour etc.

113. (1781)

A letter from Canon Dillon, Dungannon, to Dr Troy. He received notice of the meeting but its receipt on 9 June does not allow him time enough to notify outlying clergy, his area is widely scattered. He himself is ill as Dr Blake can confirm, and will hardly be able to attend.

Date: 9 June 1781.

I was honoured with etc.

114. (1781)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dr Blake. He encloses a letter from Propaganda which came open to him with the Decree which he will forward soon. The Bearer of this note knows how anxious I feel (at being appointed Adm. Armagh diocese) He hopes that God may grant Dr Blake a peaceful retirement and reward his resignation to the Divine will.

Date: 12 June 1781.

The enclosed came etc.

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115. (1781)

A copy of a notice to be read in all chapels of Drogheda, From Dr Troy to the faithful. In future all duos are to be paid to Fr Dowd and his curates? Fr Dow is to remain as Administrator of St Peter's during the pleasure of the Holy See. On account of the distracted situation in the town for some time past, the time for fulfilling the Easter duty is extended to 15 July. Dr Troy has been appointed Administrator of the Diocese for the time being and is to be obeyed in all things. Dr Blake after many years of labour is retiring on a pension of 150 guineas a year as a reward for his past work and to enable him to spend the remainder of his life in ease and decorus;

Date: 16 June 1781.

The following lines, etc.

116. (1781)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He received his letter dated 15 June and will notify priests in Dungannon area on 19th and those in Armagh area on Thursday, He will forward a list of names of all the priests ; he congratulates Dr Troy and asks his blessing.

Date: 18 June 1781.

I received the honour etc.

117. (1781)

Same to same. At the two meetings of the clergy all were pleased at Dr Troy's appointment, but uneasy over an appointment made some time previously to the united parishes of Tullabrack and Tandragee, He encloses the list of priests promised. All the clergy are preparing their people for Confirmation and think that around 1 August would be a suitable date for conferring that sacrament.

Date: 23 June 1781.

We have had etc,

118. (1781)

Same to same. He is glad that Dr Troy is arranging to confirm in Dungannon on 25 July, Canon Dillon's feast (St James's Day), The next meeting of the clergy in that area is fixed for 19 July; he thinks that Dr Troy will find thorn "tolerably well regulated" and well disposed to receive Dr Troy with great respect.

Date: 25 June 1781,

I am honoured etc,

119. (1781)

A letter from Fr Bernard Quin to Dr Troy. He has been ill, so could not reply to Dr Troy earlier. He refers to a certain priest; in Dean Quin's present state of health if he were to warn that young man the result would be the ruin of both himself and the priest concerned. At present a Franciscan assists Dean Quin; yet, if a secular is thought to be more suitable, a Fr Conwell, nephew of a priest in the diocese, has recently returned from Paris; if ordered to come he would be willing, the uncle said. In a postscript he adds that "poor Mr Mc A...le's" character is too well known ; if appointed the people would object to him. Dr Troy should send McA. "to a parish where the pastor may have more vigour to repress and the flock less mixed with other denominations to be less confounded at his misconduct"

Date: 29 June 1781,

Being much indisposed etc.

120. (1781)

A letter from Fr John Markey, Dundalk, to Dr Troy. There are rumours that Dean Levins may refuse to be Vicar in the upper district. He mentions various priests in that district; the only one fit, though very young, is a Fr Martin in Tullyallen. He writes so that Dr Troy may not be quite unprepared if Dean Levins declines to be appointed Vicar.

Date: 1 July 1781.

There is a suspicion etc,

121. (1781)

A copy of a note from Dr Troy to Dr Blake. He does not anticipate further disputes re the emoluments end will not interfere only to enforce immediate payment of agreed sum to Dr Blake.

Date: 3 July 1781.

As the gentlemen etc.

(OMITTED from this page: 121 a: See page 43, No. 223 below.)

122. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He will give Dr Troy's orders to the clergy in his district. It is rumoured that the Abbe Preston has been appointed Coadjutor of Armagh. Dr Butler of Cashel wrote to Dr Plunkett, Meath, saying he had heard this and was glad, hoping that the Abbe's family and connections would help to restore order to "that distracted diocese". With due submission to Cashel, Dean Levins thinks that learning, prudence and zeal would be more desirable than family connections; he enumerates the qualities he would like to see in the Abbe Preston,

Date: 25 July 1781

Your orders dated etc.

123. (1781)

Same to same. Two years ago the Pope spoke of appointing " a nobleman" to Armagh. Dean Levins wonders if the report about the Abbe Preston means that Rome is of the same opinion still. There will soon be a meeting of the bishops of the province and he hopes their deliberations will not be kept so profoundly secret as on the last occasion; however, with Dr Troy there, nothing derogatory to the dignity of Armagh will take place he feels sure. The 15 August, not the 16, would be the best day for Confirmation in Ardee. Mr McCarney's health is improved, so he is going to Dublin; as the Dean heard nothing of Mr Verdon he did not write to Dr Carpenter about him.

Date: 6 August 1781.

The Pope, two etc.

124. (1781)

A Remonstrance by Fr. Dom. McDavett, ex-Provincial of the Franciscans, (against Dr Coyle, Coadjutor Bishop of Raphoe) to the Suffragan bishops of Armagh. He was granted Stranorlar parish by Papal Bull and inducted by the Derry Vicar General some years previously. His appointment was for life on condition that he paid £25 a year to Fr. Reilly. He did this and has receipts to prove same, signed by Fr. Reilly. in 1779 Dr Coyle falsely accused him in court, saying the payment should be 30 guineas yearly and stating that he owed for two years. Fr McD. encloses receipt to prove that this was not so. However, he sent a year's pension first by a messenger, then went with it himself but Dr C. refused it. He appealed to Cardinal Castelli and got a receipt from him which he encloses. He appeals to the bishops to see justice done. Cardinal Casteili died since; so did Fr O'Reilly. He asks that he may retain the parish of which Dr Coyle has unjustly deprived him; he is willing to pay the 20 guineas due to Fr O'Reilly to the latter's just heirs. The papal Bull entitles him to remove and unjust possessor from the parish; but he will abide by the bishops' decision.

Date: August 1781.

The various grievances etc.

125. (1781)

(On the same paper) Copy of the judgment, signed by Dr Troy and six northern bishops, on preceding. They state that the Franciscan's remonstrance should be considered by four pastors, none of whom is to be from Raphoe diocese; two are to be chosen by Dr Coyle, two by Fr McDavett; both parties are to abide by their decision; if there is not a majority decision an umpire is to be chosen.

Date: 10 August 1781.

We judge, and etc.

126. (1781)

Draft, in Latin, of the preceding; in Dr Troy's hand.

Date: 10 August 1781.

Arbitramur, quantum in etc.

127. (1781)

Copy of an attestation signed by four persons, that Fr Dowd paid £50 to Dr Blake, the amount owing up to 5 July 1781. Dr Troy authenticates this document and receipt of the money is signed by Dr Blake and Fr John O'Connor (Dr Troy's secretary) all on the same paper.

Date: 13 August 1781.

We, whose names etc.

128. (1781)

A letter from Fr Dom McDavett, O.F.M., to Dr Troy, He reminds Dr Troy to forward his case to Propaganda. The Bishop of Ardagh, whom he met in Dublin, looked into his case and promised to contact the Nuncio in Brussels On the same day Dr Coyle wrote to him (McD.) saying that he would not abide by the decision of Dr Troy and the northern bishops (cf. 125 above) to appoint four pastors and an umpire. Dr Brady (Ardagh?) also signed the Remonstrance. Fr McDavett makes a further complaint against Dr Coyle, viz. that he refused to ordain young Patt McDavett, though three years previously he had promised to ordain him in Derry; he would give no reason for this but Fr McD. thinks that it was because the young man knew of Dr Coyle's former misconduct while Dr C. was a lodger in his (P.McD.'s) father's house. Recently Fr McDavett presented F. McD. to the Franciscan Provincial and admitted him to the Order.

Date: 19 August 1781.

As I am thoroughly etc.

129. (1781)

(On same paper) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Fr McDavett. He is sorry that Dr Coyle does not like the mode of arbitration agreed upon by the bishops. An authentic copy of that instrument signed by the bishops has been sent to Propaganda. Dr Coyle assured Dr Troy that the matter had been long ago decided by Rome; if not Dr Troy is sure a speedy decision will come. He himself is not inclined to interfere further. He is sure that Fr McDavett observed the Franciscan Constitutions when admitting Patt McD. into the Order.

Date: 23 August 1781.

Your favour of etc.

130. (1781)

A letter from Fr John Quin, Armagh, to Dr Troy. Illness prevents him going to meet Dr Troy at the chapel today. He invites Dr T. and Fr O'Connor to call on him this evening for a glass of wine, or in the morning for tea and breakfast. If it is convenient to come Fr Quin will tell Mr Stringer to get a carriage for them.

Date: 26 August 1781,

My indisposition prevented etc.

131. (1761)

A letter from Canon Dillon, Dungannon, to Dr Troy. There is nothing strange since Dr Troy left. He himself stayed with his parents on Tuesday night and with his brother in Armagh the following night. He is now back in Dungannon.

Date: 1 September 1781.

As nothing material etc.

132. (1781)

Same to same. He got Dr Troy's letter stating that he was moving Fr Devlin in from Tandaragee, where Mr Myans made Fr D. welcome. Canon Dillon humbly submits that people who informed on Fr Devlin could not have known the full facts or they would have informed Dr Troy differently; he assures Dr Troy that Fr Devlin's principles were quite the opposite to the information laid against him, in fact he was always resolved to be amenable to Fr Myans and to promote the good of the parish. He respectfully requests Dr Troy to reconsider Fr D.'s case.

Date: 3 September 1781.

I received the honour etc.

133. (1781)

A long statement of accounts between Dr Blake and Dr Dowd (covering five years) signed by Dr Troy who states that he holds the original receipt for same signed by Dr Blake,

Dates: July 1776 to August 1781.

The Revd. George Dowd etc.

134. (1781)

A letter from Eph. Stannus, Carlingford, to Dr Troy, concerning a young couple who were married by McArdle (evidently suspended). They and their parents are now very upset; Dr Troy has been falsely informed about this case and is asked to intervene.

Date: 3 September 1781.

I take the liberty etc.

135. (1781)

A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the preceding. He would like to oblige but there are complications in the case. Besides, while Mr cArdle continues to disgrace the priesthood in that area, any leniency would be misconstrued and prejudice the obedience so necessary for all society.

Date 4 September 1781.

I have been etc.

136. (1781)

An appeal, signed by Dean Levins and three other Canons of Armagh Chapter, sent to Dr Troy for forwarding to Propaganda. They protest that the bishops at the Synod of August did not invite the Chapter; and they consider that the resolutions passed there were injurious to the rights and privileges of the said Chapter and prejudicial to the authority of the Holy See.

Date: 5 September 1781.

Nos Ecclesiae Cathedralis etc.

137. (1781)

(On same paper) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the preceding. Having read their appeal carefully, he is not in a position to forward it to the Holy See without first consulting other bishops of Armagh Province who were at the Synod he attended. Moreover, he has to draw attention to the fact that the appeal has not been drawn up with the motive of promoting peace and discipline, such as animated the bishops at the Synod. At that meeting the rights and prerogatives of the Holy See were safeguarded by the bishops, also by Dr Troy who respects and safeguards that authority "not in a fickle manner, but constantly"
Ob reverentiam Sancti Sedi etc.

138. (1781)

(On same paper) A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to an unnamed bishop. He forwards a copy of 136 and 137 above for his perusal and consideration. He heard of no other actual or intended opposition except from the four who signed the appeal (136), He will write to Rome about the case. His visit to Armagh is nearly ended; on his way back to Kilkenny he will stay a few days in Dublin.

Date: 11 September 1781.

I think it my etc.

139. (1781)

A letter from Fr John Markey to Dr Troy, The only thing needed to restore peace in Cooley is for Dr Troy to come to Omeath chapel next Sunday. McArdle spent two hours yesterday in altercation; half the congregation left the chapel; he then tried to persuade the remainder to support him. McA. thinks that some Louth priests asked for his removal; the congregation said that if Dr Troy wished to remove McA. they would not support him any longer. Fr Michael Verdon wishes to resign Carlingford and the united parishes in favour of Fr Michael Kieran and on condition that he (Fr V) gets a maintenance pension of £20 a year for life. The Omeath people are only looking for a pretext to abandon McArdle and apologise to Mr Hutchinson, the agent over them, who favours McA. If this affair were settled "there would be peace from Magherafelt to the Bridge of Drogheda." If Dr Troy were to announce coming for Confirmation to Omeath, McA would hardly put in an appearance.

Date: 10 September 1781,

I have the pleasure etc.

140. (1781)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He refers to 136 above, a copy of which Dr Troy sent him. He will not attend the Chapter; he will answer Dr Troy's queries concerning Fras Myans and Brennan to the best of his ability.

Date: 15 September 1781.

I am exceedingly etc.

141. (1781)

A draft copy (in Dr Troy's hand) of a letter to propaganda from Fr Ml. Verdon, resigning the united parishes of Carlingford, Temple town, Grange and Omeath in favour of Fr.M. Kieran on condition that he receives a pension of £20 a year for the remainder of his natural life. This is to be witnessed by Fr John Marley and Fr John O'Connor and Dr Troy himself.

Date: 1781.

Ob causas Ill ma, etc.

142. (1781)

Draft copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dean Levins. He is leaving for Dublin and will go from there to Kilkenny. He asks the Dean to mention Dr Blake's claim for a crown from each pastor in the Province at the coming assembly of clergy at Dunleer; he is to inform Dr Blake of their reply. Concerning the proxies and other contributions usually paid to the Archbishops of Armagh, Dr Troy expects to receive these just as Dr Blake and his predecessors did; but he does not mean to prejudice Dr Blake's right to any dues established by law or custom. Dr Troy empowers Dean Levins to demand and receive said dues for him (Dr T.) He has written to the other Vicars, Frs Dillon and Markey, in similar terms.

Date: 20 September 1781.

This will inform etc.

143. (1781)

A note from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy He received Dr Troy's instructions and will comply with same.

Date: 22 September 1781.

I am, this moment etc.

144. (1781)

The final page of a letter 'remainder missing) from Fr Jn. Markey to Dr Troy. Dean Levins will query the expression are to be made would may be made be better? Fr Markey has looked back over all the Councils of Armagh for past 150 years and does not find that the Chapter was invited to any of them. He expects to see Dr Troy soon.

Date: 1 October 1781.

.. but then Dean etc.

145. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He read Dr Troy's instructions (cf. 142 above) at the Dunleer Conference; all refused to pay the crown claimed by Dr Blake, but cheerfully paid the dues for Dr Troy - all except Mr Wall who paid only half a guinea. Dean Levins has six guineas for Dr Troy (in dues) It is rumoured that subscriptions are being collected secretly in the lower parts of the diocese. The resolutions of the bishops' meeting in August were not published in Meath or Clogher, or in any other diocese of the Province except Armagh, "so I was not as uncharitable as Yr Lordship seemed to think". Dean Levins reminds Dr Troy "that he cautioned him against that Synod and advised him not to attend. Even before its resolutions were published he told John Markey that he would appeal if they contained anything detrimental to the privilege and rights of the Chapter and clergy of Armagh; no other course was then open to him cave to appeal to Rome.... Time would tell who was candid and honest in Armagh and the province. He called the Chapter to pursue the appeal; he will now call it again to remind Propaganda of a paragraph concerning concursus_ before they come to a decision on the appeal... Dillon, when called to the Chapter, gave a frivolous apology... Dean Levins thinks that Dillon is aiming at being elected Coadjutor. He hopes there will be less jealousy and more warmth at their next meeting.

Date: 7 October 1781.

I read your instructions etc.

146. (1781)

(On same paper) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Dean Levins - 145 above), He assures Dean Levins that the postulation mentioned, though flattering to Dr Troy was not approved by him.

The 6 guineas are to be paid to Ml. O'Connor, Drogheda, to Dr Troy's account. The resolutions at the prelates' Drogheda meeting were certainly published in Meath and Clogher; he already told Dean Levins that and had written so much to Cardinal Antonelli on the matter that he can add no more. Propaganda will probably pronounce on Dean Levins' appeal soon and Dr Troy will acquiesce in their decision. Dr Carpenter showed Dr Troy a letter from the Bishop of Nantes, informing Dr C. that after a formal visit to the Irish College, Nantes by the Bishop Dr Walsh, Superior, has been honourably acquitted of all charges against him and five of those foremost in opposing Dr W. had been expelled from the College. Dr Troy regrets to inform Dean Levins that Mr Con, whom Dr T. saw in Mr Kelly's house on his arrival in Louth, is one of the five. He hopes that his future behaviour will remove suspicion of his dispositions.

Date: 13 October 1781.

I was duly favoured etc.

147. (1781)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He discusses the removal of Fr Devlin though Dr Troy had appointed him curate to Fr Myans and Canon Dillon had mentioned this in the presence of other priests. Fr Myans welcomed him to Tandaragee when he got Canon D.'s letter. He hopes Fr Devlin will keep his resolutions. I wish he (Fr Devlin/Fr Myans?) were more consistent, then there would be less confusion." ; however, if Dr Troy is removing him, Canon Dillon will recommend Devlin to Fr O'Neill. (Letter rather ambiguous, as he is not precise when using words he and him.)

Date: 8 October 1781.

As Your Lordship etc.

148. (1781)

Same to same. As Dr Troy foretold, Canon Dillon was cited to the Chapter in Louth 27th September; he does not know what transpired and encloses a copy of Dean Levins' citation; its first line stating that the diocese was united is at variance with another statement they made - that Armagh is far from enjoying peace.

Date; 11 October 1781.

As Your lordship etc.

149. (1781)

A copy of a letter from Dr Troy to Dr Curtis, Rector Irish College, Salamanca. He thanks him for his congratulations but hopes that he (Dr T.) will soon be relieved from Armagh affairs, He hopes that all their endeavour for the good of the Irish Colleges in Spain and for the good of Ireland may be successful. To prevent Armagh students contravening the King of Spain's decree prohibiting entry to Alcala Salamanca, Dr Troy has instructed his Vicars in Armagh to insert that decree into the letters of students going to the Irish Colleges abroad. He mentions two students, MacMahon and McKenna; he hopes a certificate given the former has not contravened the royal decree; the latter claimed relationship with General O'Neill, so Dr Troy told Canon Dillon to give him the usual papers but to inform him of the King's prohibition . It is necessary that Dr Curtis should know about this.

Date: 15 October 1781,

Mr Blake handed etc.

150. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He thought that Fr John Markey would have informed Dr Troy of the postulations going on in the lower part of the diocese, since Fr M. condemned Dillon's duplicity to Dean L. Ho alleges that Canon Dillon and Dr Davett, Derry, have united in a plan, each trying to obtain the Armagh Coadjutor ship for the other; he describes how they are manoeuvring and says that this is the reason Canon Dillon did not attend the Chapter. He will pay the 6 guineas to M. O'Connor when next in Drogheda and encloses the list of subscribers and amounts each paid. He will grant no Exeat without Dr Troy's authority.

Date: 19 October 1781.

The enclosed came etc.

151. (1781)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy, He received Dr Troy's letter with Maguire's complaints against Dr McDavett, also his commission empowering him (Dillon) to investigate and report on same, having taken sworn evidence He would prefer to decline but complies with Dr T. 's instructions. He comments on another case

McCloskey and asks Dr T. to forward the latter's remonstrance which should throw light on the case. He is sure the Maguire case caused Dr Troy expense; he will ask "both parties to reimburse him" For certain reasons he will hold the Maguire enquiry in Armagh, not in Derry; he will follow the instructions re the Exeats' and he encloses a list of the Dungannon district priests and the amount of dues each paid, (On the back a note in Dr Troy's hand records having received the Roman pension for Armagh province, what he sent each bishop and what he retained for himself,

Date: 20 October 1781.

I received the honour etc.

152. (1781)

A letter from Fr George Dowd, Drogheda, to Dr Troy. A dispensation is needed for the marriage of a Drogheda man to a girl from Dirty Lane parish Dublin as they are related in the third degree of consanguinity. He requests that the dispensation be sent to Fr Dunn, Dirty lane Chapel. Who is to marry the couple next Sunday there, as soon as possible. Dr Blake is staying at Mr Caddle's for the past week. All is peaceable in Drogheda and instructions in the parish chapel go on apace.

Date; 21 October 1781.

There is a match etc.

153. (1781)

A letter from Fr John Markey to Dr Troy. In Cooley parish the people were not instructed about the marriage regulations or the need for dispensations. This has gone on for 25 years and in parts of the parish two-thirds of the marriages were invalid and null. He asks Dr Troy to empower Fr M. Kidman, now serving in Cooley; to dispense in prohibited cases and validate these marriages; that would greatly facilitate his work in the parish. "Handley of Newry, the couple-beggar, being now lodged in Armagh jail, McArdle of Omeath succeeds him in the infernal employment, but he is daily slowly losing ground," If Fr Kiernan's collation arrive it would leave McA. almost alone. All the proxies, except Fr Downey's have been paid. When Fr Markey receives that, he'll lodge all with Mr O'Connor, Drogheda.

Date: 22 October 1781,

It has happened etc.

154. (1781)

A testimonial signed by 32 parish priests and curates of Armagh and Dungannon districts, averring that Canon Dillon never called on them to put his name forward for the Coadjutorship. He sometimes solicited signatures for "another illustrious and respectable personage", but concerning which they made up their own minds,

Date; 23 October 1781

We the underwritten etc.

155. (1781)

On same paper; A note from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. The appended signatures will show how mistaken Dr Troy's correspondents from Dublin and the north are in arraigining his (Canon's) conduct. He will forward the proxies next Monday.

Date: 25 October 1781.

The subscriptions of etc.

156. (1781)

A letter from Fr James McKenna, P.P., Ardboe, to Dr Troy. They (He does not specify persons meant) proceeded to elect a proper person to govern Armagh Diocese. He thinks the choice will please Dr Troy as the candidate is of unquestionable character, of well-known ability and experienced. He hopes Dr Troy will concur. (He does not give name of candidate)

Date; 30 October 1781.

Animated with the etc.

157. (1781)

A letter from Canon L. Taaffe to Dr Troy. He had a letter from a student in Propaganda recently after informing the student that he was not to return to Armagh until recalled by Dr Troy. The student said that Propaganda will not allow him to remain longer than next Easter when his studies will be concluded, Dr Troy is requested to write to Propaganda about this case, also concerning the student T. Mc Cann in the Irish College. The first named student, White, asked Fr Taaffe to inform him if Dr Troy has been confirmed as next Primate of Armagh; he heard that there were many in competition with him. In Rome they would like to see Dr Troy appointed, though some impune his actions towards Dr Blake, but these are partisans of Dr Blake. Having quoted from the student's letter Fr Taaffe goes on to say that Dr Troy would now be Primate if he had taken Dean Levins' advice not to attend the provincial Synod or publish its decrees. The other bishops made a catspaw of Dr Troy purposely to exclude him as they knew his good standing in Home. He (Dr T.) confided in John Markey's politics and in Canon Dillon's treachery and they betrayed him. Fr Taaffe is sorry Dr T. was duped .as he would prefer him to any of the Provincial bishops. He heard from Rome that none of the Provincial bishops will be appointed.

Date: 11 November 1781.

I had a letter etc.

158. (1781)

A letter from Fr Jennett, Drogheda, to Dr Troy. Dr Blake, who is unable to write, asked Fr Jennett to request Dr Troy to secure that his quarterly pension, due 12 December, may be advanced now, also half a year's proxies of Armagh Diocese. Dr Blake is at great expense maintaining a servant and a horse in Drogheda, a very costly town to live in. Had he the pension in advance he would leave at once, Dr Troy has probably heard that his former landlady, Mrs Ferney, is back at Mass. The minister visited her twice this week, to know if

she had been persuaded by anyone to recant; she said that her conversion proceeded from conviction, not persuasion.

Date 18 November 1781.

I am earnestly etc .

159. (1781)

A copy of Dr Troy's reply to Fr Taaffe (157 above). He knows that it is against the rules for White to remain on at Propaganda when he finishes his studies; it would be useless and maybe offensive to apply to Cardinal Antonelli, who is a strict disciplinarian. The same applies in the case of McCann as the Cardinal Protector does not favour communication between present and future members of the Ludovision College. Dr Troy knows how Propaganda regards him and can assure Canon Taaffe that the fact that he attended and signed the resolutions of the Diocesan Synod does not lessen his reputation in Rome. A recent letter from Rome to Dr Troy made no mention of exclusion of bishops who signed the resolutions. He is far from being duped as Propaganda knows well that his only ambition is to be forever freed from any official interference in the diocese of Armagh. He is grateful for the friendship of Dr Taaffe and other well-wishers. His opinion on the present situation is that while the Armagh clergy continue to be divided in their choice of a Coadjutor, not one of the diocese will be named to that important station.

Date: 19 November 1781

After an absence etc.

160. (1781)

A letter from Fr John Markey to Dr Troy. He received Fr Taaffe's letter which Dr Troy enclosed and is certain that although Fr T. wrote it, Dean Levins drafted it. He recounts a long conversation he had with the Dean to prove this. He warns Dr Troy to expect opposition from the Dean and to be careful of how he deals with him. He encloses a list of priests and the dues they paid; he makes suggestions re some appointments. Things are bad in Cooley; the landlord's agent and Captain Benson are backing McArdle and met the people at the chapel gate, urging them to side with him. Dean Levins means to create trouble.

Date: 6 December 1781.

All your favours etc.

161. (1781)

A letter from Fr Jennett to Dr Troy. He sent the Dundalk proxies to Mr O'Connor. Dr Blake called for his pension (in advance); Fr J, gave him 10 guineas; Fr Dowd hadn't his ready but gave a receipt on Dr Troy's name; Fr J. paid same to Dr Blake; Mr Clinton also paid Dr B. and got a receipt signed by Dr B. himself; this is why Fr J's receipt to Dr Troy is for 35 guineas instead of 42. Mr Clinton will give his receipt to Dr Troy if the latter thinks this should be done. Fr J. wishes that Dr Blake would not come looking for his pension before it falls due.

Date: 7 December 1781.

Last Sunday night etc.

162. (1781)

A letter from Fr Dowd to Dr Troy. To re-establish good order and discipline he thinks that Dr Troy should prohibit Midnight Mass or the celebration of any Mass in Drogheda before 6 a.m. on Christmas morning. This was the custom before the recent period of controversy but it gave rise to confusion and scandal. Everything is going on well.

Date: 14 Dec. 1781,
In order to etc.

163. (1781)

A copy of a notice from Dr Troy to be published in all the chapels of Drogheda on Sunday 23rd December. A note on the back says that he wrote again on Dec. 19th giving leave to have Midnight Mass celebrated in private chapels.

Date: 17 December 1781.

I hereby order etc.

164. (1781)

A letter from Fr G. Dowd to Dr Troy. The letter of 19th did not come in time for publication 23rd; he published notice of 17th. Anyway, private Masses cause no scandal, unlike those celebrated in ale-houses etc,

Date: 23 December 1761.

Your favour of etc.

165. (1781)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He will forward the copies as Dr Troy directed. They made no changes there (in Ardee?) concerning fast and abstinence laws. He was always against any relaxation, so often granted in the diocese that the memory of fasting is almost gone. As the other Vicar will think Dr Troy's observations (?) necessary in their districts, they must all try to be at unity in their discipline. Lent is early, so vegetables are scarce, but the food of the poor - potatoes and herrings — are plenty and butter is cheap. He wishes that the Vicars and most prudent pastors would meet to get the opinion of the entire diocese on this.

Date: 26 December 1781.

Your esteemed favour etc.

166. (1781)

A long letter from Fr John Markey to Dr Troy. Marriages of near relation? became frequent under Dr Blake, hence the ignorant thought that dispensations were merely Dr B.'s pretext for getting money and that dispensations were not necessary and they concealed the relationship from the priests, Fr Markey tells how he himself was duped once in this way; recently he discovered a similar deception in time and refused to marry the couple even though the wedding supper was ready. He is sorry for the girl, an innocent party, and requests Dr Troy for a dispensation. He reports on the resentment over Dr Troy's intervention in the Dr Coyle case, on the bishops' efforts to diminish papal jurisdiction in Ireland and to exclude Dr Troy from the Coadjutorship. Rumour says that Dr Bodkin was appointed Coadjutor to Dr Sweetman, Ferns, but declined to accept until he knew what the Ferns clergy thought of the matter... etc. Copies of the 1688 Rescript will be forwarded to Dromore at once. He gives news re McArdle of Omeath.

Date: 7 December 1781.

The frequent example etc.

167. (1781)

A copy of a postulation from the Armagh clergy to Propaganda asking that a successor to Dr B lake be appointed.

Undated but in 1781 file,

Postquam omnes diocesis etc.

168. (1781)

The appeal of Dean Levins concerning his quarrel with Dr Blake.

Undated but in 1781 file.

Cum non obstantibus etc.

169. (1782)

A letter from Fr M. Corr, Termon, to Dr Troy. He asks to be removed to Ballinderry parish as Fr John Mulholland is dead; His (Corr's) uncle was P.P. there, the parish priests of Termon always moved on to Ballinderry; it is his native parish where all his relatives and friends live; and he is not master of the Irish language which is spoken in Termon. He does not think that Dr Dillon will support his plea as he did not sign his (D's) postulations for the Primacy; he gives an address to which a reply may be sent.

Date: 5 January 1782

170. (1782)

A letter from Fr John Markey to Dr Troy, Dr Troy's last letter leads Fr M. to believe that he is recommending a Suffragan for Armagh's Coadjutorship; he begs him to wait until his (M.'s) next letter. Dean Levins sent a postulation some days ago excluding Dr T. and recommending himself. The signatories told Fr Markey of this. In his next letter he will tell Dr Troy of charges being brought against him (T.) by (a.) Dean Levins and the Chapter; (b) the Suffragans. Dean L exults to hear that Dr T. is losing ground in Rome; the Chapter Canons are angry because Dr T. did not invite them to the Synod.

Date: 6 January 1782.

Your letter of etc.

171. (1782)

A letter from Fr James Mc Kenna, P.P., Ardboe, to Dr Troy. Their choice for Coadjutor was Dr Dillon; his experience, merit and the interest of the Archbishop of Paris and the Papal Nuncio there in Dr D. decided them in their choice. He hopes Dr Troy approves - he has seen how other prelates and their agents, e.g. McDavett and Lennaon "laid sieges to the diocese", Dr Dillon himself favoured Dr Troy, but the priests would prefer a child of the diocese as happened in Clogher, Down & Connor, Dromore and Derry. He hopes Dr Troy will support Dr Dillon.

Date: 13 January 1782.

In consequence of etc.

172. (1781)

(On same paper) A copy of Dr Troy's reply to the preceding. He has already informed Dr Dillon that no priest of Armagh diocese will be appointed Coadjutor, unless unanimously recommended by the clergy there; also that Rome had ordered him (Dr T.) to recommend a Suffragan or other prelate for that important See. This has already done as he is impatient to be free of a charge which, besides exciting envy endangers his conscience and peace of mind.

Date: 29 January 1782.

I have already etc.

173. (1781)

A draft copy of a notice from Dr Troy to the Armagh clergy with the Lenten regulations and instructions - about, explaining these, also the granting of dispensations from the fast, the obligation of charity and of making the faster duty,

Date: 17 January 1782.

I hereby require etc.

174. (1782)

A long letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy, He comments on the Lenten regulation: disclaims having made the charges against Dr Troy which the latter stated in his letter and has always been open and candid. He justifies his appeal, explains and defends the stand he took on the bishops' resolutions. Dr Dillon proposed to postulate for Dr Troy and then got himself (D) put forward for the Coadjutorship etc. etc. He asks God to direct Dr Troy in the recommendation for the Coadjutorship.

Date: 20 January 1782.

I would in due etc.

175. (1762)

A draft copy of Dr Troy's reply to the preceding. Dean Levins cannot be blamed for defending his case and Dr Troy is not displeased. Dr Troy will say no more on the subject only that he forgives those who uncharitably attribute his conduct to motives and principles he disdains and detests. He has forwarded the Lenten regulations. He writes from Dublin. Dr Butler and Dr Plunkett are there and Dr Troy is told that Dr Davett is expected.

Date: 26 January 1782.

I am here since etc.

176. (1782)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He is surprised that Dr McDavett — not Dr Troy — is pronouncing judgment on Dillon's report and so soon after the court, Dr McDavett ordered Fr McGuire to be condemned from the altar before the report was issued, so Canon D. declines to have anything more to do "with the odious affairs of Derry" unless Dr Troy puts his foot down. He continues to complain of Dr McD.'s strictures on the report and vindicates same himself. He gives details of the manner in which the enquiry was carried out and quotes two priest witnesses etc etc. The news of Fr Mulholland death was premature; he is alive and well. He(Canon D) is unconnected with any postulation sent to Rome in his favour; he never solicited votes for it and did not hear of it until now: he has no ambition for Armagh or any other diocese. The burden he has is quite enough for him.

Date: 19 January 1782.

I was honoured etc.

177. (1782)

Same to same. He tells of the difficulties connected with the other Derry case - Dr McDavett and Fr McCluskey. Only that Canon Dillon wishes to serve Dr Troy he would have withdrawn from adjudicating in these Derry disputes altogether. He expects that the advertisement in the -Belfast News notifying Deputies of the Volunteer Corps in Ulster to the Dungannon Convention has appeared in Dublin papers. "This is another reason why we (the clergy?) should not be seen to convene for some time in these parts. He heard that the Lenten regulations were being sent to Ardee and Dundalk; he hasn't received them yet in Dungannon and is afraid they may arrive too late. Fr Mulholland is dead; he was on a visit to a cousin

living in a remote part of Antrim and died there last October. A letter from the cousin arrived only last week.

Date: 28 January 1782.

I acknowledge the etc.

178. (1782)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He sent the Lenten regulations to Fr Markey, Dundalk and the pastors in Ardee district. He hopes that the present meeting of the prelates in Dublin is a friendly one and will promote the good of religion in Ireland.

Date: 3 February 1782.

Both your letters etc.

179. (1782)

A letter from Fr John Markey to Dr Troy. The Holy Oils will be prepared in accordance with Dr Troy's directions. Even if Fr Kieran's collation (for Cooley parish; arrived now Fr Markey does not think it should be enforced as it would shorten Fr Verdon's days. He discusses the case from the standpoints of both - Fr Verdon and Fr Kieran - at great length; if Dr Troy commands Fr Kieran to return to Dundalk, however, he (K.) should be reimbursed some £50 or £60 because he was put to great expense through moving to Cooley, not to mention having to attend to the people by night, for fear of McArdle's bullies. Many priests were at a Markey funeral the other day and Dr Troy's recommendation of Dr O'Reilly as Coadjutor was publicly discussed; Dean Levins must have heard this from Fr Sherlock. A paternity case is alleged against a Fr M.O.P.; he is certain a drunkard and should be changed from Armagh diocese. He discusses the vacancy in Magherafelt and Ballinderry parishes and mentions candidates.

Date: 5 February 1782.

Your kind favour etc.

180. (1782)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He received the Lenten regulations just in time for the Conference. All the gentry of Dungannon district and friends of the Government are constantly conferring with Canon D. concerning the great Volunteer Convention to be held next Friday at Mrs Tracy's. He is glad Dr Troy accepted his remonstrances about the McDavett McCluskey dispute. "It promises to be even more disagreeable and trouble some than McGuire's. May God help us". The Bishop of Derry is still silent to Canon D. which is one comfort. He mentions the vacancies in Magherafelt. Fr Mulholland died 51 December, not in October.

Date: 11 February 1782,

I received your etc.

181. (1782)

A letter from Fr Anthony Tegart to Dr Troy. He explains the delay in discovering the true date of Fr Mulholland's death. Canon Dillon has informed him that Dr Troy wishes him to continue in the parish until May, for which he is grateful. He hears that a certain priest has applied to Dean Levins for it and is announcing that he is sure of it.

Date: 13 February 1782.

I would have etc.

182. (1782) A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He thanks him for the pleasing news

concerning Dr McDavett, also for the news of the four places in Propaganda; he will send students for two of the vacant places soon, and commends Dr Troy's fair allocation of the vacancies. If the Catholic Relief Bill does not go through, that will not be the fault of the Dissenters in Ulster, for they unanimously resolved at the Dungannon Convention, "that all penal laws except those forbidding arms and votes at elections should be repealed". This will be reported in the press; he is sorry Dr Troy cannot come next month.

Date: 18 February 1782

I acknowledge the etc.

183. (1782)

A letter from Fr J. Markey to Dr Troy He never thought much of Mr Connor but it will be time enough to collate when Dr Troy arrives, (next passage mentioning Dr Carpenter and Dean Levins not quite clear).. Fr Markey knows that when he clears his debt to Propaganda Dean Levins will try to saddle him with a pension for Canon Taaffe. Young Fr Levins, Cano: Taaffe's curate, has a nephew he wants ordained by Dr Plunkett at Easter so he will apply to Dr Troy for dimissory for the ordinand, Fr M. agrees with Dr Troy re the education clause in the Bill and hopes that it will not go through, though the bulk of the M.p.'s are quite infidel. More re same.

Date: 18 February 1782.

I never had etc.

184. (1782)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He is grateful for the information concerning the Bill of Property. It got a big majority but not as big as in Dungannon. He describes the Convention and the Delegates, especially Councillor Dobbs speech, from which he quotes. Dobbs accused the government of setting Catholics against the Dissenters and vice versa. A dissenter Minister, Mr Black, also got great applause, also Mr Hervey, a Rector; the voting was four for, two against, when Canon B. hears from Dr Lennan he will ask him where the Holy Oils are to be consecrated so that he can forward the censer and cruets for Holy Thursday.

Date: 23 February 1782.

I am honoured etc.

185. (1782)

A letter from Fr Jn. Markey to Dr Troy. The priest who was asking Dr Troy to provide for him died fifteen days ago; happily, for he was never out of the ale-house and gave much scandal. And yesterday evening, James McArdle, who caused all the Omeath-Cooley disturbance and was excommunicated last September, died. He does not know whether McArdle had a priest before his death. Fr. M. thinks Dr Troy did right by refusing to give the dimissorial letters asked for

Date: 24 February 1782.

The Revd Mr etc.

186. (1782)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy As regards the Bill (for Catholic Relief) "I see in one hand the olive branch, in the other the iron rod; the measures fit the description of Mr Black at Dungannon timeo Danaos etc Dr Troy's opinion of the regulars coincides with his own; he thinks of them as Moses, by their vocal and mental prayer in their solitary cells aiding the secular clergy - the Israelites in the plain. He discusses the clause of the Bill referring to the registering and education of the Catholic clergy; it *is* the same as the other measures against religion. Further re the blessing of the Holy Oils and distribution of same; he has fixed dates for that and for receipt of proxies in Dungannon and Armagh. Dr McDavett and McCluskey have written to him asking him to hold the court of enquiry. He asks Dr Troy for advice re this.

Date: 2 March 1782.

Before I open etc.

187. (1782)

A letter from Fr Michael Verdon to Dr Troy. When he resigned his parish he was in a turmoil from all he suffered through McArdle. Now, the latter dead, circumstances are changed and he begs to be reinstated. Fr Kieran has lawful possession and says he bought a whip, spurs and a mare and left a good lodging in Dundalk to come to a cold one in Carlingford and he will not allow Fr V. to resume pastoral functions, hence this appeal.

Date: 2 Mar 1782

Since ever I etc.

188. (1782)

A letter from Fr Jn. Markey to Dr Troy, Verdon's distress over his resignation comes from " a set of boggarly relations and a passion to hand over the parish to his nephew", Fr M. thinks that Kieran, though young, was generous in offering a pension to a man who could live 30 years, if sober, especially as Kieran was the man who defeated McArdle, at some cost to himself. Mr Stannus is for Verdon and is writing to Dr Troy, Dr Troy will rake up his own mind or the matter when he visits the diocese, Fr H. thinks that the devil invented the clauses about the regulars, education and intermarriage in the Bill. He recommends Matt McCann, brother of Tom in the Irish College, Rome, for one of the vacant places.

Date: 10 March 1782,

Whereas you mentioned etc.

189. (1782)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. He wishes "that they had not mentioned the Bill in Parliament "but left us as we were," He will convene the parties in the Derry controversy to the Court of Enquiry, as per Dr Troy's instructions. The "bishop of Derry wants the court of Enquiry set up at one venue, McCluskey says there would be "confusion, bloodshed and battery" there and wants a different venue which Dr McDavett will not hear of. Canon Dillon will arrange a time and a place in his own diocese. He expects that a Coadjutor will be appointed this month or next.

Dates 11 Feb. 1782

I was honoured etc.

190. (1782)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He stayed a long time in Dublin but the Catholic Bill did not succeed. He quotes a letter received from Clcgher concerning a matrimonial case and

requests a dispensation, Dr Troy cannot delegate this power but, must see to the matter himself. He refers to Carberry McCann, a student who was in an Irish College in France and is now very poor and unable to pay. The Rector, Walsh, demands the money. Smith was ordained for Armagh by Dr Bellew, Dr Blake giving the dimissorials; he (S.) is now waiting at home since summer 1781 and wishes to go to Nantes, if Dr Troy will recommend him and grant him a signed Exeat.

Date: 12 March 1782.

After your long etc.

191. (1782)

A letter from Canon Dillon to Dr Troy. The date for distribution of the Holy Oils having been fixed, he wishes to know if he is to demand the proxies that day or wait until Dr Troy's visit; a prompt reply is requested.

Date: 25 March 1782,

As the distribution etc.

192. (1782)

Same to same. He is glad to hear the news of.....? of education. He will try to be just and tactful at the Deny Enquiry. Dr Blake's sentence on the Quin/Devlin affair some years ago makes that dispute too arduous for Canon Dillon to handle and he begs to be excused. Lord Welles and the Hon Mr Knox (known to Dr Troy since their journey from Rome to Paris in 1777) are at Farm Hill but Canon Dillon, being busy with Easter duty confessions, has not yet had time to call. He will give Mr Knox Dr Troy's compliments.

Date: 30 March 1782.

I am honoured etc.

193. (1782)

Same to same. He only knows what he read in the Belfast News Letter, Dr Troy's letter mystifies him; he had not paid much credit to the Belfast report. But Dr Troy's direction regarding the Collect confirms the report of His Holiness' journey and the motives for it. He will tell his priests about the Collect. He does not know the new Coadjutor but will regret Dr Troy's departure.

Dates 8 April 1782.

I am honoured etc.

194. (1782)

A letter from Dean Levins to Dr Troy. He passed on Dr Troy's order re the Collect to the pastors in his district, Peter Markey, P.P. Louth, has a boy fit and willing to be sent to Propaganda. Dean L. that when Fr M. applied to Fr Markey, Dundalk, he was told that Dr Troy had allocated the place to Clarke of Meath diocese. Dean Levins disapproves of this. He heard that a Coadjutor has been appointed to Armagh and wishes him well.

Dates 10 April 1782.

Your Lordship's esteemed etc.

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.

Date: 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. Date: 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 fact 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 Tandragee. 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.

I no 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 concourse. 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 - Bom 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 Lisbon 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

The following letters are surplus in file.

27/7/166B

Letter dated 25th Jan. 1781.

'You have I presume etc.'

29/7/166C

Letter dated Feb. 5th 1781

'Rev. Dr. Sir.....etc.' (on same page)

29/7/166(d)

Letter dated June 2nd 1781

'His Holiness.....etc.' (on same page)

29/7/166(e)

Letter dated June 2nd 1781

'The enclosed is aetc.'