

Jesus said to his disciples. Whom do you say that I am?

Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou Simon Bar Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my father who is in heaven. AND I SAY TO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER; AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

AND I SHALL GIVE TO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven. S. Matthew xvi. 15-19.



'Is the Church likened unto a house? It is placed on the foundation of a rock, which is Peter. Will you represent it under the figure of a family? You behold our Redeemer paying the tribute as its master and after him comes Peter as his representative. Is the Church a bark? Peter is its pilot; and it is our Redeemer who instructs him. Is the doctrine by which we are drawn from the gulph of Sin represented by a fisher's net? It is Peter who casts it; Peter who draws it, the other disciples lend their aid, but it is Peter that presents the fishes to our Redeemer. Is the Church represented by an embassy? Saint Peter is at its head. Do you prefer the figure of a Kingdom? Saint Peter carries the keys. In fine, will you have it shadowed under the symbol of flock and fold? Saint Peter is the Shepherd, and Universal Pastor under Jesus Christ.' S. Francis of Sales. Controv. Disc. 42.

CALENDAR.

MAY 28—Sunday—V. after Easter, St. Urban, I. P. M. Doub. Sup.
 29—Monday—St. Boniface, IV. P. C. Doub. Sup. (Rogat.)
 30—Tuesday—St. Felix, I. P. M. Doub. Sup. (Rogation.)
 31—Wednesday—St. Agatha of Merici, Virgin, Doub. (Rogat.)
 JUNE 1—Thursday—Ascension of Our Lord I. P. C. Holy Day of obligation.
 2—Friday—St. Eugenius, I. P. C. Doub. Sup. com. &c.
 3—Saturday—St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi, Virgin, Doub. In Brev. 27th May.

LETTER OF THE BISHOP OF ELPHIN TO THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY.

Antigua, 26th April, 1848.

My Lord—It must appear strange that I should so long defer giving any reply to the letter dated the 29th February, with which (through the public journals) your Lordship, honoured me from Bournemouth. I had left London and was in a distant part of England, when it appeared, engaged in my late charitable mission to your country. Since then I have been much occupied by the Lenten visitation of my diocese, by attendance on and assisting at the last obsequies of an aged parent, who died about a fortnight since, in his 99th year. Perceiving also that your Lordship was not disposed to give much credit to statements unless supported by evidence, I deemed it more prudent to postpone any letter until I should have leisure to visit Stokestown personally, and inform myself correctly of all the bearings of this lamentable controversy. I can have no object, my Lord, to gain in saying or writing anything to the prejudice of the late Major Mahon, no man more sincerely abhors and execrates than I do the crying and terrific crime that brought him to an untimely grave. Perhaps, my Lord, in my zeal to defend an innocent and maligned Priest against the imputation cast upon him by Lord Farnham, &c.—I do not wish, if I could help it, to classify a Shrewsbury with such anti-Catholic company. I may, in describing the scenes that occurred, have written too warmly or hastily, if I compared them to those that occurred under a Nero or Caligula, but the tenor of my letter will prove that the simile was rather intended, in a general sense, for the whole of Ire. and where the poor were oppressed, than for any individual application to Major Mahon. I never questioned the abstract or legal right of Major Mahon to evict or destrain his tenants if he thought proper. That large and immense sums of rent and arrears of rent were due to him, are undeniable facts; but the question is, what does the divine and natural law prescribe in a year of famine, pestilence, and desolation? If any landlord in such a period shall urge too strongly his legal claims, may we not say, *summum jus, summa injuria*? If many of a large property are treated with great indulgence and lenity, while a very large portion are handed over to the tender mercy of bailiffs, agents, &c. may not such severities be exercised upon the latter as will account for the cruel and heartrending scenes of which I made mention in my former letters as having occurred in the neighbourhood of Stokestown? I have now before me a catalogue of 605 families dispossessed of their lands and houses in the immediate vicinity of that town, including eighty four widows, in all amounting to 3,006 souls. The names of all the heads of houses are given, the townlands in which they resided, the number in family, and the exact number of souls dispossessed in each village. I will send the list to Mr. Lucas, of the Tablet, by way of appendix to this letter, requesting that he will, if possible, publish the whole, or submit it to the perusal of any honest gentleman desirous to read the particulars. I will do the same and transmit a copy to Dr. Gray of the Freeman's Journal. It may be said that many of the families specified emigrated voluntarily to America, but there is, my Lord, as you well know, a vast distinction between what is termed in human acts *voluntarium simpliciter et voluntarium secundum quid*. A merchant in the perils of storm reluctantly commits his goods to the waves. Quære, if he had a free choice, would he do so? A poor tenant, in a year of famine and general dearth, finding it impossible if pressed to pay his rent or arrears of rent, with the fear of ejection processes served upon him, listening to the menaces of bailiffs, agents, &c., consents, like the merchant in the storm, because he has no choice, to surrender his house, his home, and all, and abandon for ever the country of his affections. The landlord pays in such cases some small sum, merely sufficient for transporting to America some unfortunate individual and his family, who are thus thrown, if they escape the pestilential vapours of an emigrant ship, upon a foreign shore poor and penniless.

Great boast is often heard of the large sacrifices made by the landlord, but no account rendered of the value of the manure on the premises, or of the crop in the ground, which in many instances are and must be surrendered to the head proprietor of the soil. It is but justice to say that I have heard many, and even some of my own Clergy, speak well of the goodness of heart of poor Major Mahon, and declare, that if left to himself, he would not proceed to, or perhaps have countenanced the extreme measures of severity that were practised in his name. From my heart I wish to do justice to his memory, to avoid all unnecessary acrimination. I adopt the fairest means, by publishing the data, giving the names, &c., thus affording to Mr. Pakenham Mahon, and to all his friends, an opportunity of discussing the merits of each case, and, for the sake of humanity, will rejoice, if any false statement has been made to me reflecting upon the deceased or his agents, that the same may be corrected and the truth elucidated.

Your Lordship, taking up the idea of Mr. Pakenham Mahon, is pleased to re-echo a charge of partiality against me, because I was silent upon the conduct of my lamented father and brother. Allow me to assure your Lordship that the statement made in Mr. Mahon's letter was the first intimation that I received of the transaction alluded to. I must acquit my poor aged parent, who was never known in a long life to have oppressed a poor man. Being incapable, from his very old age, for a series of years of superintending his farms, he handed them all over to the management of my brother, whose letter to Mr. Pakenham Mahon explains the entire circumstances, of which I never heard a syllable until the whole matter reached the public. If it occurred in the immediate vicinity of Stokestown, to which alone on account of your Lordship's reiterated charges against Father M'Dermott my attention was directed, I must have heard it, and trust, if I know my own heart, I would not screen even a brother if proved to be an oppressor of the poor, and that the defence of innocence demanded an exposure.

I regret much, my Lord, that after the perfect acquittal given by your Lordship to Father M'Dermott, in one of your late letters, of all attempts to excite to the assassination of Ma-

or Mahon, yet you still seem to have some doubt on this head, when you ask—why were not the names of the respectable magistrates. Mr. Blake Birmingham, and of the Messrs Shanley attached to the document acquitting Father M'Dermott? My answer is, they were not in the chapel on the day specified, consequently could give no evidence. The Messrs Shanley admitted this to me. Mr. Blake was absent from Stokestown, on leave, when I last visited there, I could not see him, but it is an incontrovertible fact he was not in the chapel. I believe, if Mr. Blake is occasionally absent from Mass, delicacy of health is the sole cause. I send, also, my Lord, as an appendix to this letter, the solemn declaration made before a respectable protestant magistrate residing in the immediate vicinity of Stokes town, of three honest, upright, religious men, practical Catholics, bearing evidence of the great provocation given to Father M'Dermott at the Court-house given by poor Major Mahon, previous to his retorting in any angry tone or manner.

I have now submitted to your Lordship all the information that I can obtain. If your Lordship prefers giving credence to the vague declarations of the rich and great, be their landlords, magistrates, doctors, &c., in preference to the solemn declarations of pious practical Catholics, who being present, speak not upon report or belief, but depose to positive facts, it is not for me to question your Lordship's taste. I would, my Lord, most probably, after all that has been written on this painful subject, be now silent, and leave your Lordship's last letter unanswered; but having received such kind and affectionate attention from your countrymen on the occasion of my late visit to England, respect for them and for the impartiality of my own character, which your Lordship has impugned, demands the explanations given in this letter, and in the appendices attached.

When the cloud and mist that obscured the truth from your Lordship's view shall pass away your high religious character, the many noble Catholic virtues for which you have been distinguished, fills me with the fond hope that your Lordship will yet make reparation to the wounded feelings of Father M'Dermott, and renounce all connection and association with the hereditary defamers of our holy religion.

I may, my Lord, be blamed in this country for writing so tamely on this subject, but, my Lord, your late errors shall not make me forget the respect due to your ancient virtues and noble family.

In bidding a final adieu to all further correspondence on the subject of this letter, I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

Geo. J. P. Browne.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON, TO WIT:—

Edward Conry, shopkeeper, and Charles Costello, tutor, both of Stokestown, and Thomas Burke, land surveyor, of Elphin, in said county, came before me, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for said county, this day, and solemnly declared that they were in attendance as clerks at the Stokestown Relief Committee on the 28th of August last; that the late Major Mahon attended the Committee on that day; that on his entrance Major Mahon called for the cash-book, and, on examining the same, asked Costello why he should take the liberty of carrying on a balance of £30 on the face of the account; that said Major Mahon demanded the vouchers for the accounts of the previous five weeks, and having been told that these documents were

transmitted, as by order, to the Finance Committee, he became angry, and, from his observations and manner, seemed to cast suspicion on the correctness of the accounts before him, and to impeach the character of the Very Rev. Michael M'Dermott, and declarants say that they understood him to do so. Declarants further say, that the Very Rev. Michael M'Dermott took every pains to explain his accounts, and also the system of doing business required by the Finance Committee, and the accounts of each week were furnished, and the accounts of each fortnight audited and settled by Major Stewart; and after two hours of useless explanation, that the Very Rev. Michael M'Dermott having retired to the door, declared that he would remain no longer to be thus grossly insulted. Declarants further say that thereupon Major Mahon stated that he would report Mr. M'Dermott's conduct to the Commissioners, that Mr. M'Dermott did return, and that a conversation ensued, in which Major Mahon exhibited intolerable rudeness and ill-temper towards the said Very Rev. Michael M'Dermott.

Declared before me this 10th day of April, 1848, pursuant to the provisions of an Act made, and passed in the 5th and 6th William IV, chapter 62.

Georges Browne, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Roscommon.

Edward Conry—Charles Costello—Thomas Burke.

SUMMARY OF EJECTMENTS BY MAJOR MAHON.

	Souls	Widows	Families
Upper Cullagh	156	7	33
Lower Cullagh	121	3	23
Gurthuse	185	3	33
Mahon's Yard	366	6	74
Curdrammin	74	1	14
Goreglass	171	5	40
Killnordan Moor	156	7	3
Seramogue	187	5	33
Mullistritin	71	2	11
Castlenade	112	8	21
Newtown	73	5	16
Farnbeg, Stokestown	38	2	7
Church-street, ditto	39	0	7
Kildologue	106	0	12
Cregga	155	6	39
Lugboy	89	2	12
Tully Cartron	14	0	6
Clooney Brennan	22	0	6
Cloonrairie	90	3	28
Tooreen	86	4	13
Kiimacnameny	212	8	4
Curhownagga	73	0	14
Aughadine	35	1	9
Cloonslanard	60	0	1
Dallyhabeat	5	0	1
Ballinafad	81	3	18
Lackin	77	2	14
Tully	144	1	23
Total	3006	64	605

There were a far greater number of widows ejected than those marked out here. There can be no less than 150 widows, with their wretched families, most of whom have since perished.

THE CRIME OF DEPOPULATION.
 In the Second addition of last week and the first addition of the present we published a letter from the Bishop of Elphin, giving some appalling depopulation statistics from Stokestown and its neighbourhood. This week we complete the detail by giving the names of all the heads of families exterminated from that district, with the townland on which they once resided, and the number of each family, that is, the number expelled from each house. In and about Stoke-