

His lordship said, « By all means. »

The poor fellow apologized for calling so unseasonably, but was prompted by the desire he had for confirmation, saying it would strengthen his faith so much. Already he had begun to suffer persecution. The chief of police had been in town, and had reproached him with having embraced the « Popish religion. » « Father, » said the poor fellow, « if you will speak to the Bishop, I feel assured he will not refuse me this favor. »

Accordingly I did speak, and his lordship at once consented. On the following morning before leaving for Cappoquin, confirmation was administered to him, and his lordship was greatly edified at the pious, humble demeanor of the poor policeman.

From that day Mulligan suffered much from his companions and superiors, and was soon removed to a mountainous district, as the severest punishment they could inflict. He bore all with consummate patience. This country barrack, Ballinamult, was within eight miles of Mount Melleray, and neither the frosts and snows of winter nor the burning sun of summer deterred him from walking these long eight miles across the mountain, every Sunday morning, for counsel and direction from the good Cistercian Fathers, and to assist at holy Mass and nourish his soul with the Bread of Angels.

For two or three years he persevered thus faithfully, and from time to time wrote an account of himself to me, and expressed an ardent wish to join the Oblates of Mary, as a lay brother. Having persevered three years in his desire, he wrote asking if I would be at Glencrea when he would pass through Dublin, which would be in a few days, as he had got leave of absence, and meant to visit his parents and brothers and sisters,