

When Doyle was born, the outlook, outside of trade, was dark indeed for an ambitious lad of the Roman Catholic faith. There were no seminaries where a Catholic youth could obtain a superior education. The test oaths debarred him from entering King's college—the only institution in the province offering a fit training for a professional career. There are now but meagre details of his youth to be gathered. His father purchased from Bishop Burke a building on the site of the present St. Mary's glebe, which had been built by the bishop as a college, and which his lordship attempted to found, but which fell through for want of adequate means to maintain such an institution.

Doyle was educated abroad—probably at Stonyhurst. The Halifax of his youth offered no opportunity for the education of one of the Roman Catholic persuasion, without coming under influences unfavorable to his faith. Even dissenters of all kinds were debarred from taking advantage of a training in a seminary which received a substantial grant from the people that outnumbered by five to one the privileged denomination that controlled the Windsor college. One of the ordinances of that college read as follows: "No pupil was allowed to attend Mass, or meeting house of Presbyterian, Baptist, or Methodist, or to be present at seditious or rebellious meetings." If a youth entered King's college he would have to put aside the religious observances in which he was trained, and before he could obtain a degree he would have to subscribe to the thirty-nine articles—in fact, become a member of the Church of England.

In the *Weekly Chronicle* of April, 1821, appeared some verses on the death of Bishop Burke. It was stated that they were "lines by a very young gentleman, a native of this town at H. H. (probably intended for S. H., meaning Stonyhurst) college in England, on receiving information of the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Edmund Burke. The lines, which were signed "L. O'C****D*le" are as follows: