

ask for the love of God, a share in that charity of our countrymen in America which has already helped to raise up so many churches and convents in the old land of their birth and their love, and we turn especially to all those beyond the Atlantic who are proud to own the soil of old Tyrconnell as the land of their fathers to help us with a generous hand to raise up for God's poor a Convent of the Sisters of Mercy on most hallowed and historic ground. Our new building will be within a stone's throw of the famed "Abbey Assaroo," its foundations are placed on the very spot, at the mouth of the Erne, where once stood the Castle of the lordly O'Donnell's, and it will be the first convent erected in this ancient diocese since the days of the penal times.

And now, for every help, however small, that may be sent us, we promise the only return that we can give—the heartfelt and undying prayers of our little community, that the goodness of God may reward a hundred fold, even in this life, all of our country's sons and daughters in America who show themselves our benefactors and our friends.

*Approbation of the Bishop of the Diocese.*

DEAR REVEREND MOTHER,

I earnestly recommend to the kind consideration of the charitable your appeal for aid to complete your new Convent in Ballyshannon. It is sad to see the work stopped through want of funds, while your Sisters pining away in their present unhealthy abode, and so cramped for space as to be unable to carry out efficiently the works of charity to which they have devoted themselves.

Trusting that your appeal may meet with the success which the purity of your motives and the excellence of your work deserve.

I am, dear Reverend Mother,

Yours faithfully,

† MICHAEL LOGUE,

Bishop of Raphoe.

Letterkenny, 22nd July, 1881.

Donations will be most gratefully received and acknowledged by the Most Rev. Dr. Logue, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal; Very Rev. D. Spence, P.P.; Rev. H. A. Gallagher, C.C.; Rev. P. Kelly, C.C., Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal; or Sister M. Ignatius M'Carthy, Superioress, Convent of Mercy, Ballayshannon, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

A GERMAN ON THE IRISH LAND SYSTEM.

Mr. J. G. KOHL, a practical minded German, who travelled in Ireland, and a gentleman by no means ill-disposed towards England, gives expression to the opinion that Ireland's land system was at the root of her sufferings, and wonders that not even the great Tribune had once thought or spoken of any means of effecting a change in favor of the agricultural population, "the most important and first class of society, upon which rests the whole fabric of the state, as upon its base." Now that after the lapse of many years the views propounded by him have come to be seriously discussed, his words are well worth consideration. He observes:

"In most of the civilized countries of Europe—in France by a revolution, in almost all the states of Germany by wise reforms—the nobility have been deprived of their old feudal rights over the oppressed and subjugated peasantry; and these, from serfs and slaves, have been turned into small free proprietors of the soil. Nay, even in Russia, within the last ten years, many introductory measures have been taken towards making peasants more independent of their lords and gradually to give them the ownership of the land which they till. In England and Ireland only, people have not ventured even to think on the question whether it would not be very wise to grant the poor, serflike Irish farmers the freehold of their soil; or, if this could not be effected without a revolution, at least to follow the example of Russia, Saxony, etc, and, by reforms and measures introductory to changing the tenants-at-will into hereditary possessors, to regulate and reduce the rents of these tenants by law, and then to *permit*, and finally to *insist* on, the tenant's right to purchase his land; and by these means to form a class of free peasants and small independent landowners. No one has for a moment thought of enquiring, as has been done in France and Germany—nay, even in the Baltic provinces of Russia—whether the peasant has not an older and better right to the soil than the noble landowner who grew over his head gradually by force and oppression, and took away from him by degrees the land of his fathers. There is in England so holy an awe of interfering with the rights of property as recognized by the state that no one is capable of taking so comprehensive and elevated a view of the subject as would enable him to perceive that, under certain circumstances, it would be the highest wisdom for the state itself to violate these rights."

Mr. Kohl then goes on to speak of