

the Bible without his license, and be a good Catholic. You cannot retain your standing, and read any book which he prohibits, or fail in any duty which he enjoins. You cannot bow your knee before God, with a Protestant, around his family altar, without the terror of a severe penance when you next go to confession. I see you freemen, in a land of freedom, and yet the veriest slave that tread the soil, because your minds and souls are in fetters. I see you a noble people, yielding a degrading homage to men that deceive you, and sustaining, even in your poverty, with a princely liberality, institutions that degrade you. And I desire, with an irrepressible desire, to see you the subjects of the perfect law of liberty with which Christ makes his people free. These, my friends, are the reasons of my solicitude about you.

However I feel towards the system of popery, or towards the priests of the system, there is but one feeling and one desire in my heart towards you: that feeling is one of affection and interest—and that desire is, that you may be emancipated from a system of superstition and spiritual despotism, as degrading and grinding as any that God has ever permitted to exist.

With great respect, yours,

KIRWAN.