

Written for CATHOLIC RECORD. CATHOLICS OF SCOTLAND.

BY THE REV. MESSRS M'DONELL DAWSON, LL. D., F. R. S.

It pained him, moreover, to learn on inquiring of his friend, the agent, that the portrait of Baron Melzies of Pitofede which was in the recreation room of the Scotch college, together with other old portraits, all the English books and most of the classics in every language had been sold by the late rector, in the Piazza Navona.

As a warning to all Catholics in times of political agitation the case of one Downie, a member of the Edinburgh congregation, comes now to be recorded. The principles of the French revolution were spreading all over all the countries of Europe. Scotland was not exempt from the contagion.

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At last there was a reconciliation of the two families of Gordon and Stewart. Prince Augustus, of the former line, was spending the summer at Grota Fawata, and often had occasion to meet Cardinal York. He never met him but he caused his phaeton to stop and stood with his hat in his hand till the Cardinal was passed.

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Some time was now devoted to the preparation of the usual letters to Rome, to Propaganda, the Cardinals Albani, Gerzani, Feserjeto and Talage, the Secretary of State. In all these letters there was an account of the affairs of the Scotch mission. The letter to Propaganda consisted of a general statement, describing the journey, receptions and health of each of the bishops during the past year; and not omitting the lines sustained by the mission in France and elsewhere.

After the meeting Bishops Hay and Chisholm repaired by way of the Erie to Aberdeen, where the letters to Rome were signed by all the three bishops. Bishop Hay was very desirous, on the occasion, to see his invalid conditor, as appearances indicated that he would shortly die.

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Geddes, his tract on duelling was not forgotten. A copy of it together with the life of St. Margaret was sent to the office of the Encyclopaedia, addressed to Dr. Gleig. Bishop Hay was much impressed on reading the biography of Boscovich. "Poor man!" he said, "how I was affected with the account of his latter days. Mr. George Maxwell was no less so."

The loss of the foreign colleges rendered it necessary that the bishops should direct their attention towards enlarging the seminaries at home. It happened at the time that a very eligible property in the North, near Gordon Castle, was for sale. As an encouragement of the Catholics, Duke Alexander, at that time head of the ancient House, showed his mind on the subject in a very decided and public manner.

At the commencement of 1795 there was some discussion on the subject of public prayers for the king and royal family. Mr. Melzies, of Pitofede, had the introduction of such prayers much at heart; and, at his earnest request, Bishop Geddes proposed the practice to Bishop Hay. The latter was opposed to making it obligatory on the clergy; but would willingly suggest it, and leave it to them to adopt it if they chose.

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