

Bishop of Limerick to the Hon. Secy

18893-4

^{to}
very private

Limerick 9th Dec. 1811

My Dear Lord

I am only just now honor'd
with your Letter, of the 27th Nov^r, from Belkern
expressing a wish of obtaining from the
Primate the preferment of Loughgilly
(vacated by the Death of Dean Dawson, for
D^r A. Dudley, as an Event that would
be gratifying to the Prince

I need not take much pains to convince
your Lordship of the extreme Happiness
I should feel in being, any way, instrumental
to the gratification of H. Royal Highness.

The Living in question (Loughgilly formerly
held by me, by the Death of Dean Dawson
fell to the Patronage of the Primate,

Bishop of Limerick & Clonmacris

and Dr. I know, His Grace disposed
of, three weeks ago, to Dr. Bishop of that
Diocese. — and here, my Dear Lord,
I feel myself bound, from every sense of
Duty and Attachment to His Royal Highness,
to freely state my opinion to your Lordship
upon this point, in the strictest Confidence:—

From various circumstances which
occurred in the Duke of Bedford's Administration,
as well as from late Conversations with the
Lord Primate, I am persuaded that His Grace
never would grant any preferment himself
to Dr. B. — and that if he took a part at all,
it would be that of Opposition to his receiving
(even from the Crown) any sort of Dignity in
the Irish Church. — It is but Justice to that
honorable & worthy man, the Duke of Bedford,
to assure the Prince, that I was witness to the
extreme anguish he felt in not being able

to accomplish the wish of H. R. Highness upon this
Subject. — The strong prejudices of the late Bishop
of London were conveyed to the Heads of the Church
in this Country, which were so strengthened by a
similar Letter from a high & respectable
Member of your Cabinet to the Duke, that
His Grace was, with difficulty, able to confer
upon him a preferment in another Diocese,
and that through a little Management of
mine with the B. Bishop of Tuam. —

From this Statement, my Dear Lord,
you will perceive there is nothing to be
feared from the Primate, who, in addition to
very good understanding, possesses many
additions; his prejudices not easily
removed, and he figures himself upon
independence — mixes but little with
the world, & therefore apt to form mistaken
opinions. — He is good natured at Bottom, &
very kindly permits me sometimes to combat
these erroneous opinions. —

When Bishop George Overford was to be translated
from Clonfert to Kilmore, in the Province of Connaught
the Primate took it into his head to write imme-
diately to the King, against Lord Hardwicke's
Recommendation. - and the other day he
told me a laughable circumstance of Lord
Essex applying to him for that very Living
of Loughgilly, for his son who wishes to marry the
Primate's niece - "His grace had no objection
to the Match, but Lord Essex must provide
for his son himself!" -

These little anecdotes will give your
Lordship some Idea of the Man's peculiar
Turn - from which little is to be expected
upon ^{the} Subject of your Letter -

I understand Mr. Pole has got his
Petition down Serjeant of Cork, recommended
for the vacant See of Down - Should this
Promotion take place, the Lord Bp. will have
the See of Cork (£ 1300 p^ani) and a Living
of £ 900 to dispose of -

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now I do think that the Lord Lt., in
common decency, ought to consult the
Prince Regent's Wishes upon this occasion,
who has shown such unexampled forbearance
& unusual indulgence to the Irish Minister
in the uncontroul'd disposal of so many
Bishopricks. The Duke of Devonshire
himself express'd his surprise when his
first Recommendation, in favor of B. Hall
to Down, came back accepted, for
he look'd for granted the Vacancy
would not be fill'd up untill the
Restrictions expired -

From my personal knowledge
of B. Dudley, and particularly from
the Prince's anxiety to promote
him, I shall feel extremely happy
in being still useful - but
from what I have stated,

Your Lordship will see that (unless a
Proferment from the Crown) it
will be difficult to accomplish the
Object - and even then, some little
Management will be necessary
on our part -

I cannot, with safety, be more
explicit; by a post Letter, but
shall probably, after Christmas,
have an opportunity of personally
stating to your Lordship, ^{such information} as may be
necessary for His Royal Highness
to be in possession of; especially
respecting the Situation, &
Management of our ecclesiastical
Affairs in this Country -

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and with the most profound
Respect, and affectionate
Attachment, believe me
ever,

Your Lordship's
faithful & devoted
Wth Servant
W. Linnick

134. of Linnick
9. Decr 1811