

A letter from Katherine Jones, Viscountess Ranelagh to Anthony Dopping, Bishop of Meath, 15 April 1682. Armagh Robinson Library, Dopping Papers, Volume 1, no.21.

No. 21

My Lord

I am sensible I have much more reason to acknowledge your great favour in approving my poor labors at your most leisure time, than to receive any excuse from you for not affording you more speed. I am very glad you should be pleased to see where ever at least of your English Protestants, in not endeavoring to make up to your poor Irish in spiritual advantage. Which Providence has afforded to you of temporal plenty in your native Country of those poor creatures & your poor Irish are reduced to the most destitute to free you from the charge of your guilt. I hope you will allow me to be your good effects of his grace and blessing.

Many Protestants of your nation were made to take away your Irish language must either provide your poor natives be fore they should be executed might be instructed in your language of your English language. Or else they must be suffered to have cademian. These poor Irish to a hospital all ignorance & silence. & therefore since those Protestants have not been executed in your equitable part, from towards

If those people it would seem very indolent to let you suffer other of your part of you. & since by your neglect of your last number of your natives are grown up in your refusal of speaking their mother tongue. It not to be known they will easily at those years be taught your own & it would be therefore in the table not to provide you a help by which they may yet come to your knowledge of your way to life eternal.

And this is too bad a fault of their priests have been too much indulged by your insight & liberty of conscience of your or hardening you in their errors & they have thereby enslaved you to an impious faith in their detestable idolatry & truth of God will prove more powerful your fathers errors & they will be in a like way to be delivered from their miserable bondage. If they may have discourses & read books you may acquaint you with these truths. While they are left ignorant in your books to be led by you & their great leader your devil. I hope at his will & have private persons can neither execute nor make public law for their conviction. I yet may you have some persons left behind at Christian make my God is rewarded by your grace of God to do his best to get your assistance & help, I hope you may give you in their own language & is now getting an Irish grammar printed at his own charge & promising to translate your old testament in order to your deliverance. In your works in 1682 and has brought him much a help as you

to whom he presents his humble service & desires me to present you with these grounds of your strength in your labors to carry on this good work & if you may prosper it in little or lands & in as many more as he shall please to make to joyne with you therein in your hearty prayer of his who is with much reality

My Lord

Your humble servant & affect
Cousin

K. Ranelagh

The 15th of
April 1682

For the Lord Bishop of
Meath
My much honored Lord
at Dublin

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