

Bilha, Nova de Gaya - Portugal. 9<sup>th</sup> December 1913

To the Right Reverend G. C. S. Gorton D.D.

Lord Bishop of Gloucester

My Lord Bishop,

I yesterday received from the rev. G. Williams a cutting from The Record of the 24<sup>th</sup> October. The notice of the Dublin meeting of the S. P. C. K. I was probably written by M. P., it is his style & wording, if not written, it was inspired by him.

It is not correct to say that <sup>in the</sup> past vacancies have been filled by "co-optation". The most the members of our Council did, was kindly to let us know the name of a Bishop who probably ~~would~~ accept if nominated by our Synod.

When Lord Pembroke, Bishop Stack first visited Portugal more than ten years ago they personally told D<sup>r</sup> Pope, then president of the Synod and myself (the only members of the Synod who spoke English freely) that they and the late Bishop of Down would consent to be members of the Council if appointed by the Synod, and they boldly repeated over & over again that they claimed no jurisdiction or authority whatsoever in the Anglican Church.

When Lord Pembroke was called to his rest, Bishop Stack wrote to D<sup>r</sup> Pope saying that the Bishop of Down would accept if nominated by our Synod, and at the recommendation of D<sup>r</sup> Pope (and myself) he was appointed a member of our Council by our Synod.

When the Bishop of Down died, M. P. wrote to the rev. Feijevado, president of the Synod, saying that the Bishop

of Clogher would accept if appointed by our Synod. I then  
spoke to our great friend the late Bishop of Gibraltar, Dr Collins,  
I asked his advice, he answered: "The Bishop of Clogher  
is a very good man & will do well". I told the Synod  
in session that I had been informed that the Bp of Clogher  
was a suitable man, & he was accordingly unanimously  
appointed by us.

The members of any Council of Bishops must necessarily be  
foreigners until we have three Bishops of our own, but accor-  
ding to our Constitution & Statutes they have no jurisdiction  
or ecclesiastical authority in the Lusitanian Church, and our  
Constitution can only be altered by a General Synod, and all  
the formalities described in our General Acts.

Our Constitution and General Acts has been recognized &  
approved of by the Portuguese Government as the internal regulation  
of the Lusitanian Church, Catholic, Apostolic, Evangelical.

According to art 116 of the Law of Separation the direc-  
tion and administration in any Portuguese Church or Society  
is entirely prohibited, not only by foreigners, but also by  
naturalized Portuguese citizens, even with the consent of  
Portuguese citizens under pain of extinction.

If the Portuguese Government should hear of the nomi-  
nation and appointment made by the House of Irish Bishops  
the Lusitanian Church with men serious risk of being ex-  
tinguished just like many P. L. corporations have been  
because they were under the detection & wrong of foreign authorities.

We are much obliged to the members of our  
Bishops for their kind interest in the A. S. We don't want  
them to resign, but they have no authority or jurisdiction  
in our Church.