

A letter from Katherine Jones, dowager 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, & not to receive any excuse from you for your not affording me with more speed. I am very glad you should be pleased with anything where ever it is, of your English protestants, in not endeavoring to make up to your poor Irish in spiritual advantage. Whose Providence has afforded to you most temporal plenty in your native country, of those poor creatures, & your poor protestants are reduced to the greatest misery to free you from the burden of your guilt. I hope you will allow me to be your good effects of his grace and blessing.

Many of the members of your nation were made to take away your language must either provide, or your nation 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 numbers of your nation, 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 that 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, or hardening you in their error, & they have thereby enslaved you to an impious faith in their detour. The truth of God will prove more powerful in your fathers error, & they will be in a like way to be delivered from their miserable bondage. If they may have discourse & read books of your acquaintance with these books. While they are left obscure in your books to be led by you & their great leader your divine father at his will & have some person can neither execute nor make public law for their correction. It yet may be their own pleasure left to them. It is therefore my business is referred by your grace of God to see his heart to get your assistance, & not to be left 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 work in 1682 and has to write him such a letter as you

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 of hands & 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 readiness

My Lord

Your humble servant & affect  
Cousin

K. Ranelagh

The 15<sup>th</sup> of  
April 1682

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

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