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Hugh Lacy Baron of Eufras
Lacy in England & of Meade
in Ireland. Tyred in. h. 2. tyme

LORDSHIP IN FOUR REALMS

The Lacy family, 1166–1241

Colin Veach

Front cover: A Connemara school room late 19th century photographed by the American Clifton Johnson. Note the small blackboard with attendance marked up, the school clock, and the parish board tablet showing that secular instruction was in progress.

Below: Exterior of Belfast District Model School

*[The Model Schools]
are the depots,
the recruiting
and drilling ground
of the teaching staff
of the country*

(Head Inspector P.J. Keenan,
1857 Report, Belfast D.M.S.)



Model Schools-Model Teachers?
A nineteenth-century Irish teacher-training initiative

Joseph
Doyle

SEATA
OUIRÉ
BOOKS
Thomastown
Co. Kilkenny

Model Schools- Model Teachers?

A nineteenth-century
Irish teacher-training initiative



Joseph Doyle

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MR KEENAN'S REPORT ON THE BELFAST DISTRICT MODEL SCHOOL.

Appendix C. Plate I. View of the Exterior of the Belfast Model School.

APPENDIX 1

**Description of Cork District Model Schools from
The Illustrated London News 19th August, 1865**

CORK DISTRICT MODEL SCHOOLS

The Irish Board of National Education has caused a Model School for the Cork district to be established in that city. The situation, in Angelsea-street, is convenient and accessible from all parts. The building shown in one of our Illustrations, was commenced in January, 1864, and finished this summer. The architect was Mr J.H. Owen, and the work, according to his designs was done by Mr James Delvin, the contractor; Mr P. Lynch being clerk of the works. The style of architecture is Italian, the materials are red and black bricks, with Portland stone dressings and sculptured capitals and limestone columns. The interior is divided into three compartments – namely, male, female, and infant schools – which are distinctly separated from one another. The entire length of the front line of the building is 291 ft, exclusive of yards or railings. A tower 60 ft high rises in the centre, the upper story of which is intended as an observatory for the advanced classes of the male department. The boys' school is 60 ft long by 30 ft wide; the girls' 40 ft by 30 ft. There is a maritime school, 40 ft by 25 ft, with four class-rooms attached, with lavatory, cap-room, and coat-room. The infants' school is 48 ft long by 25 ft wide, with one class-room, lavatory, cloak and bonnet room. To each school-room are attached large, airy sheds, with spacious play-grounds and every necessary accommodation.



MODEL SCHOOLS, ANGLESEA STREET, CORK.

first Annual Examination. However, an analysis of enrolment by religious denomination would suggest that the school did not long maintain its popularity among the Roman Catholic population. At the end of August 1851, of the 176 on rolls, 60 per cent were Presbyterian, 20 per cent Episcopalian, and only 14 per cent Roman Catholic. Compared with the previous year, Roman Catholic enrolment had fallen by a third. Of interest also are the statistics for school fees. The figure of 50 per cent at the lowest rate demanded by regulation was not met, reaching just 44 per cent. That for the highest rate - 16 per cent - was greater than either Newry or Ballymena.¹⁹ It is reasonable to suppose that this was accounted for by a preponderance of Roman Catholics among the town's poorer classes.

Dunmanway D.M.S.

Unlike Coleraine, Robertson's recommendation that Dunmanway be selected as a location for a district model school had the unequivocal backing of the Roman Catholic clergyman, Revd James Doherty, P.P., and of his successor, Revd John Kelleher. Doherty's support was unwavering even when in dispute with the board over its choice of site.²⁰ This may partly reflect the economic situation of the area as, in the words of Head Inspector Kavanagh,

Dunmanway is in the poorest and most backward of the seven localities in which District Model Schools are in operation ... The peasantry are very simple and primitive ... Irish is the universal language of all classes.

With little wealth, the educational opportunities open to the Roman Catholic majority of the area were limited. A mixed national school was 'poorly conducted and quite as poorly attended'. A small select school for girls was attended by 'the few able to pay moderate school fees', while a number of boys and girls attended an 'adventure school'. Significantly, Kavanagh believed that the advances made by the Bandon-based Church Education Society during the 'recent distress' had the effect of attaching the Roman Catholic clergy and their flocks to the national system, where 'the children might receive a good secular education, and at the same time be afforded an opportunity for religious instruction according to their own views and wishes'.²¹ This perceived attachment, along with the open support of the parish priest, quite probably influenced the superintendent

of the district in recommending Dunmanway when Bandon, a more prosperous and more religiously mixed town, would, in more favourable circumstances, have been the obvious choice.

There is no evidence that the Protestant clergyman was ever consulted on the selection of Dunmanway, nor is there any indication that active opposition was offered. The first reference to the attitude adopted by the Protestant clergy is contained in the report of Head Inspector James Patten on the school opening in August 1849. In this, he stated that the clergy, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, accepted an invitation to attend a meeting in the schoolhouse at which times for religious instruction were arranged. By the close of the first month of the school's operation it became clear that the school was poorly supported by the Protestant community - of the 164 in attendance, a mere seven were Protestants. Patten attributed this to two related factors. Firstly, the attitude of the clergy had changed from passive toleration to active opposition. More importantly, he held that the attraction of the Church Education Society school, with an average attendance of about 80 Protestant children, was the principal cause.²² By 1851, Kavanagh, while acknowledging the disadvantage at which the school was put by the absence of Protestant clergymen, believed that the confidence of the Protestant parents was being gradually won over. An increase in the number of Protestant children in attendance to twenty - 'children of the most respectable Protestants in the town and neighbourhood' - confirmed his assertion.

Kavanagh's account, in evidence to the 1854 Inquiry, of the arrangements made with the various clergy for religious instruction is at variance with that of Patten in the 1849 *Report*. As Kavanagh recalled, two separate meetings were held in the schoolhouse prior to its opening. The first meeting took place between Kavanagh and Patten and a number of Protestant clergymen who arrived unannounced. The inspectors were left in no doubt as to the various objections the clergymen had to 'the rules, books and arrangements' of the national system. The meeting referred to by Patten had been arranged by him for the Friday before opening. This was attended by just two of the four Protestant clergymen who attended the earlier meeting. They were joined by the two Roman Catholic clergymen of the parish. While arrangements for separate religious

National Education
To The Clergy of the Diocese of Meath

Maynooth Jan 5 - 1843

My Dear Brethren

I think that the time has at length arrived when the important question of National Education may be considered. When the mists of Prejudice which have been raised by the heat of Political Contention being dissipated we may now view it in the clear light of Reason alone - When we ought seriously to consider whether it is prudent to keep the Church any longer in hostility to the State after the System of National Education has been so modified as to have become acceptable to the enlightened people & eminently Protestant Presbyterians -

Whether by refusing to co-operate in any measure the conversion of our Roman Catholic Brethren we may not increase our unpopularity at a time when we have so many enemies to contend with. Whether

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Notes and Vocabulary,*

BY

TOMÁS Ó FLANNNGHAILE

[THOMAS FLANNERY].

Examiner in Celtic to the Irish Intermediate Education Board;
Lecturer in Irish to the Irish Literary Society;
Member of the Philological Society;
etc., etc.

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your most humble servant
June 14th 1645. *Oliver Cromwell*
Harebow.

(Letter XIII. see Vol. I. p. 514.)

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The Rev. Archdeacon Burgess

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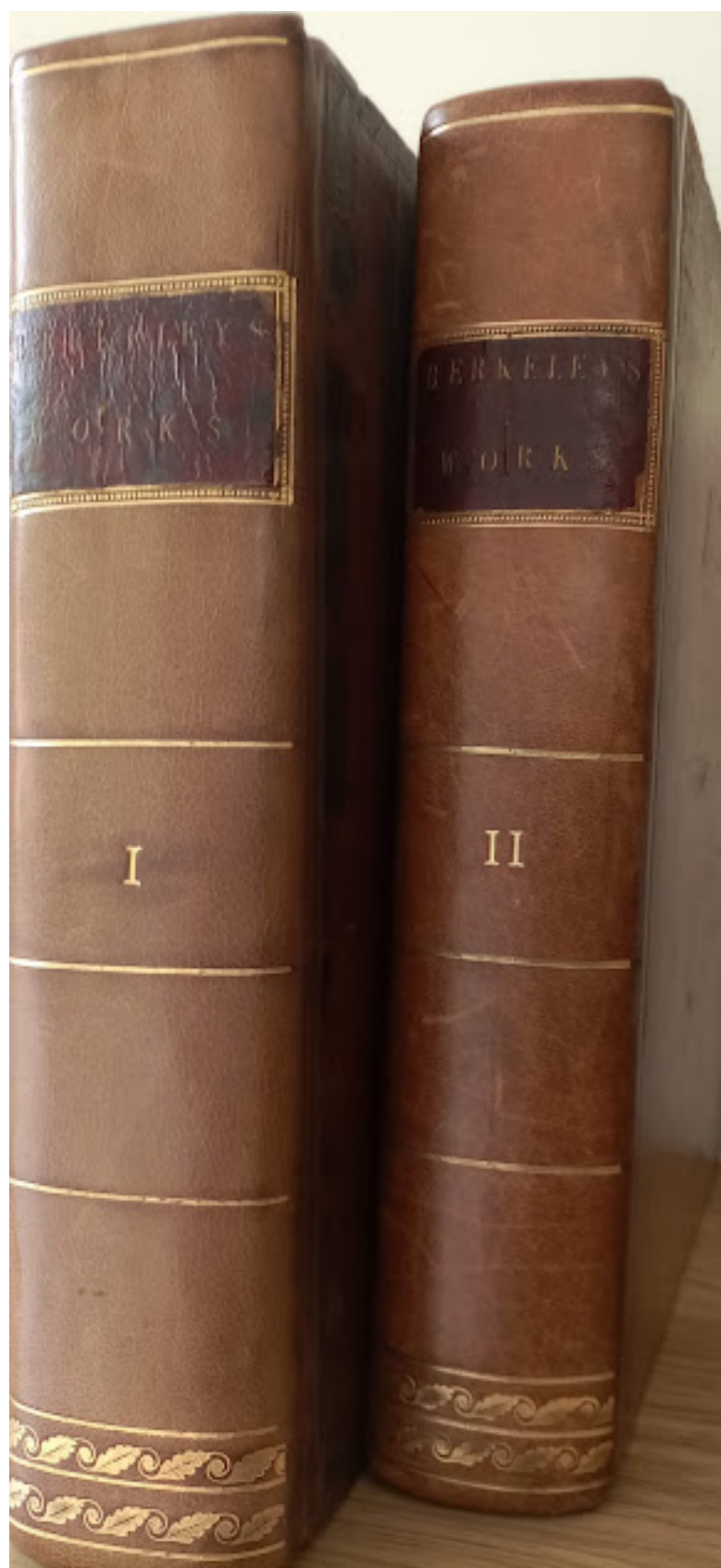
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—O-X-O—
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—O-X-O—
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"REBELLION! foul dishonouring word,
Whose wrongful blight so oft has stained
The holiest cause that tongue or sword
Of mortal ever lost or gained—
How many a spirit born to bless,
Has sunk beneath that withering name,
Whom but a day's—an hour's success,
Had wafted to eternal fame."

MOORE.

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