



Public Record Office
of Northern Ireland

INTRODUCTION

ARMAGH DIOCESAN REGISTRY ARCHIVE

November 2007

Armagh Diocesan Archive (DIO/4, T729, T848, T1056, T1066, T1067 and MIC2)

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Summary

The Armagh Diocesan Registry archive comprises 409 volumes and c.17,655 documents relating to the primacy, the province and the archdiocese of Armagh, 1240, 1291 and 1360-1977. They include: archbishops' registers, 1360-1543, 1678-1719, and 1878-1943; historical compilations, 1360-1774, which include rent rolls relating to church lands, inquisitions, etc; correspondence, etc, 1615-1957, relating to schools and education, mainly in the archdiocese of Armagh, including Armagh Royal School and the Erasmus Smith endowment; correspondence, legal papers, accounts, etc, 1713-1934, relating to various charities such as Hugh Boyd's Charity, the Vaughan Charity and Jackson's Charity; visitation returns and papers, 1617-1973; and title deeds, leases, rentals, maps, and surveys relating to church lands, 1606-1910.



The succession list of the Archbishops of Armagh, 1348-1939

The following list is taken from Powicke and Fryde (eds.), A handbook of British chronology (2nd ed., London, 1961):

Archbishops	Accession	Death or translation
Richard FitzRalph	1348	16 December 1360
Milo Sweteman	1362	11 August 1380
John Colton	1383	April 1404
Nicholas Fleming	1404	June 1416
John Swayne	1418	resigned 1439
John Prene	1439	13 June 1443
John Mey	1444	1456
John Bole	1457	18 February 1470/1471
John Foxalls	1471	c.1475
Edmund Conisburgh	1476	resigned 10 November 1476
Octavian de Palatio [or de Spinallis]	1478	June 1513
John Kite	1513	resigned 12 July 1521
George Cromer	1521	16 March 1542/1543
George Dowdall	1543	deserted his see 1552
Hugh Goodacre	1553	1 May 1553
George Dowall (again)	1553	15 August 1558
[Donat MacTeague	1560]	1562
Adam Loftus	1563	1567 trs to Dublin
Thomas Lancaster	1568	1584
John Long	1584	1589
John Garvey	1590	2 March 1594/1595
Henry Ussher	1595	2 April 1613
Christopher Hampton	1613	3 January 1624/1625
James Ussher [Interregnum 1656-1661]	1625 trs from Meath	21 March 1655/1665
John Bramhall	1661 trs from Derry	25 June 1663
James Margetson	1663 trs from Dublin	28 August 1678
Michael Boyle	1678 trs from Dublin	10 December 1702
Narcissus Marsh	1703 trs from Dublin	2 November 1713
Thomas Lindsay	1714 trs from Raphoe	13 July 1724
Hugh Boulter	1724 trs from Bristol	27 September 1742

Archbishops	Accession	Death or translation
John Hoadly	1742 trs from Dublin	16 July 1746
George Stone	1747 trs from Derry	19 December 1764
Richard Robinson [Baron Rokeby]	1765 trs from Kildare	10 October 1794
William Newcome	1795 trs from Waterford	11 January 1800
William Stuart	1800 trs from St David's	6 May 1822
Lord John George Beresford	1822 trs from Dublin	18 July 1862
Marcus Gervais Beresford	1862 trs from Kilmore	26 December 1885
Robert Knox	1886 trs from Down	28 October 1895
Robert Samuel Gregg	1893 trs from Cork	10 January 1896
William Alexander	1896 trs from Derry	resigned 1 February 1911 12 September 1911
John Baptist Crozier	1911 trs from Down	11 April 1920
Charles Frederick D'Arcy	1920 trs from Dublin	1 February 1938
Charles Godfrey Fitzmaurice Day	1938 trs from Ossory	26 September 1938
John Allen Fitzgerald Gregg	trs from Dublin	el. 15 December 1938; accepted 1 January 1939



Arrangement of the archive

This is a complex, as well as large, archive, and for two principal reasons.

The first is physical. A considerable proportion of the material, though varied in geographical coverage and/or in content, is in volume form, and so is incapable of logical rearrangement. In many cases this volume form was the original form – most obviously, the famous Registers (DIO//4/2), the early visitation books (DIO//4/23) and the marriage notice books (DIO/4/30). But in a number of cases the volume form was subsequently (in the 18th century) imposed on once loose material – notably in the 'Historical compilations' which compose DIO/4/5 and occur frequently elsewhere in the archive. These subsequent and artificial volume-arrangements have acquired an archival identity of their own, with which it would be unthinkable to tamper; but as the arrangement is far from logical, they do greatly complicate an already complicated archive.

The second principal reason for the complexity of the archive is historical. The Archbishops of Armagh acted in a number of overlapping capacities: as Primates of All Ireland, with a direct relationship with Rome and Churches overseas, and with primate authority and Prerogative Court jurisdiction over all-Ireland; as Metropolitans of the province of Armagh (and after 1839 of the province of Tuam as well); as Diocesans of the archdiocese of Armagh; and as great officers of state, chairmen of various boards and commissions, and governors, trustees or officials of various charitable foundations. Moreover, the Church over which they presided was, especially in the 19th century, in a state of reorganisation, rationalisation and, quite simply, flux, manifest most clearly in the frequent unions and disunions of archbishoprics, bishoprics and parishes. The archive, thus, relates to a many-sided functionary, and to an ever-changing institution.

For these two reasons it has been difficult to establish an arrangement of the archive which is neither laborious nor oversimplified, and which preserved the essentials of the original arrangement and reflects the different roles of the Primates and the numerous changes in the administrative structure of the Church of Ireland, while still remaining intelligible and usable.

The arrangement which has been established is based on two principles:

Principle 1

The papers have been arranged in an order which progressively narrows in geographical scope. Sections DIO/4/2-DIO/4/3 cover all-Ireland and the rest of the world; DIO/4/4-DIO/4/14 cover all-Ireland; DIO/4/15-DIO/4/21 cover the metropolitan provinces of Cashel, Dublin and Tuam; DIO/4/22-DIO/4/28 cover the metropolitan province of Armagh; and DIO/4/29-DIO/4/40 cover the archdiocese of



Armagh. This does not mean that all the papers about, say, the archdiocese of Armagh will be found in sections DIO/4/29-DIO/4/40 – many will be found, for example, in DIO/4/2. But it does mean that, beyond DIO/4/2-3, virtually no papers will be found which relate to places outside Ireland. The greater does not exclude the lesser, but the lesser does exclude the greater.



Principle 2

Where physically possible, and where appropriate, papers have been arranged under the smallest administrative unit to which they relate; outside the archdiocese of Armagh, this is the diocese (or other archdiocese), and within the archdiocese of Armagh, this is the parish. The caveat about physical possibility refers to the papers in volume form. The caveat about appropriateness is discussed in some detail in the introductory comments on DIO/4/32, the section devoted to individual parishes within the archdiocese of Armagh.

The basis of the arrangement is, thus, geographico-administrative – if such a term may be permitted. Other bases were possible, and have been considered. For example, it would have been possible to arrange the papers, like most of the Registers, under Primates. Alternatively, they might have been arranged in the manner favoured by many archivists, according to type of document - letters, legal case papers, testamentary papers, leases, etc. (As a matter of fact, this is the manner in which DIO/4/22, the section devoted to surveys, maps and plans, has been arranged; but only because such documents tend to be outsize and for convenience of storage are best kept together, with appropriate cross-referencing provided in the list.) It is almost certain that either of these alternative arrangements would have proved still more complicated than the one adopted.

The one adopted, it should be stressed, provides only a bare framework for the archive. Attention has been paid to making it as consistent and clear as may be, but the user must inevitably study the list with care and follow up the many cross-references. There is a point beyond which no arrangement ought to go – the point where simplicity becomes over-simplification; and it is better that the user should have to look in a number of different places for something than that he should be misled into thinking that what he is looking for is not present.

Except in one or two instances, all material in the archive which is more than 50 years old is open to public inspection.



The PRONI classification scheme

The following is the classification scheme adopted by PRONI in accordance with the principles of arrangement outlined above:

1. *DIO/4/1 Lists and calendars of the archive*

- DIO/2-3 Papers relating to all-Ireland and the rest of the world*
2. Registers of the Archbishops of Armagh.
3. Metropolitan communications to the Archbishops of Armagh.

- DIO/4-14 Papers relating to all-Ireland*
4. Visitation, rental and account book.
5. Historical compilations.
6. Ecclesiastical law.
7. Prerogative Court.
8. Education.
9. Charities.
10. Convocation and the General Synod.
11. Papers reflecting the other offices held by the Archbishops of Armagh (besides the Primacy and those covered in DIO/4/8 and DIO/4/9) and his general political role as head of the Church of Ireland.
12. Church journals and other printed matter.
13. Papers reflecting the private capacities of various Armagh functionaries.
14. Genuinely miscellaneous papers.

- DIO/4/15-21 Papers relating to the metropolitan provinces of Cashel, Dublin and Tuam (in their pre-1833 definition, minus Elphin)*
15. Papers relating to the dioceses of Cashel, Emly, Lismore and Waterford.
16. Papers relating to the dioceses of Aghadoe, Ardfert and Limerick.
17. Papers relating to the dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.
18. Papers relating to the dioceses of Killaloe, Clonfert, Filfenora and Killmacduag
19. Papers relating to the dioceses of Dublin, Kildare and Glendalough.
20. Papers relating to the dioceses of Ferns, Leighlin and Ossory.
21. Papers relating to the dioceses of Tuam, Achonry and Killala.

- DIO/4/22-28 Papers relating to the metropolitan province of Armagh (in its pre-1833 definition, plus Elphin)*
22. Maps, surveys and plans.
23. Triennial visitation papers (covering all the dioceses of the province), etc.
24. Papers about the dioceses of Ardagh, Elphin and Kilmore.
25. Papers about the diocese of Clogher.
26. Papers about the dioceses of Connor, Down and Dromore.
27. Papers about the dioceses of Derry and Raphoe.
28. Papers about the diocese of Meath.

DIO/4/29-40 Papers relating to the archdiocese of Armagh

29. Visitation and other returns and papers about the clergy of the archdiocese.
30. Marriage notice books, etc.
31. Confirmation records.
32. Papers relating to individual parishes.
33. Title-deeds and inquisitions (relating to the lands of the archdiocese and of ecclesiastical institutions within the archdiocese).
34. Leases (relating to the lands of the archdiocese and of ecclesiastical institutions within the archdiocese).
35. Rentals (relating to the lands of the archdiocese and of ecclesiastical institutions within the archdiocese).
36. Largely formal documents relating to the Archbishops of Armagh, their election, enthronement, etc.
37. Papers relating to the functionaries of Armagh Cathedral Church (Dean, Archdeacon, Precentor, Vicars Choral, etc).
38. Papers of and about the Registrars of the Consistorial Court of Armagh, later the Diocesan Registrars. [For papers about the contents of the Registry, see DIO/4/1.]
39. Papers of and above the Consistorial Court of Armagh. (This was also the metropolitanical court of the province, receiving appeals from the Consistorial Courts of the other bishops. The majority of the papers, however, relate to the archdiocese of Armagh.)
40. Papers about other institutions and buildings of Armagh City and neighbourhood.



Original lists of and indexes to the archive



*Richard Robinson,
Archbishop of Armagh*

These run from 1702 to 1973. They include: inventories and a legal opinion concerning the vexed question of what papers belonged to the archdiocese of Armagh, what to individual Archbishops, particularly Primates Boyle, Marsh, Stone, Robinson and Stuart, and what to the Governors and Guardians of the Library founded by Robinson, to which he left papers which were not his personal property, but that of the archdiocese. There are calendars of 1858 and 1860 of the archive as it then stood, the first by the Rev. Robert King and the second, apparently, by William Reeves, Dean of Armagh, later Bishop of Down, and a document of 1862 gives Reeves's view of, and another legal opinion on, the question of ownership. Dating from 1871-1878 are letters, inventories and receipts concerning the transfer of documents from the Armagh Diocesan Registry to the Public Record Office and to the Courts of Probate and Matrimonial Causes, all in Dublin; this transfer was made under the terms of the Public Records Act, 1867, the Public Records Act Amendment Act, 1875, and the Parochial Records Act, 1876 (and the documents so transferred were destroyed in the Four Courts in 1922).



The Armagh Registers, 1361-1543, 1678-1719 and 1878-1943

The following account of the early Registers, 1361-1543, is taken from the introduction to W.G.H Quigley and E.F.D. Roberts (eds) *Registrum Johannis Mey ...*, (HMSO, Belfast, 1972).

The [early] Armagh Registers are a series of seven volumes traditionally known as the Registers of Sweteman, Fleming, Swayne, Prene, Mey, Octavian and Cromer. The dates (provision and death or resignation) of the archbishops mentioned are as follows:

Milo Sweteman	1361-1380
Nicholas Fleming	1404-1416
John Swayne	1418-1439
John Prene	1439-1443
John Mey	1443-1456
Octavian de Palatio	1478-1513
George Cromer	1521-1543

All these are original manuscripts surviving from the late medieval and early Reformation periods. [They have been microfilmed by PRONI, and the microfilm copies are available at MIC2.] The text of an eighth volume, the Register of George Dowdall, survives only in the form of a transcript of the late 17th or early 18th century. [There are also late 17th or early 18th century transcripts of the Registers from Swayne to Cromer (1418-1543 inclusive).]

The registers are bound in calf and are written for the most part on paper 29 x 21 centimetres. There are occasional parchment leaves, most of which are in the two earliest registers; in the later volumes some of the parchment insertions were originally the covers of the manuscripts in the form which they had before their present binding. The general condition of the manuscripts is good. For example, in Mey's Register serious damage is mainly confined to the outer leaves of its four constituent books, though there have been slight losses of text elsewhere at the edges of folios. All the manuscripts (except the Register of Cromer) are prefaced by an index in a hand of the 17th century.

Although each of the volumes is identified with the name of an archbishop, the material within each is not co-extensive with his primacy. For example, the Register of Prene contains acts concerning the primacies of his immediate predecessor and his two successors. The Register of Octavian includes material on the primacy of John Bole, Archbishop of Armagh, 1457-1471, and a collection of documents from Swayne's primacy. The Register of Dowdall gives information on the promotion of John Long to the archbishopric in 1584. To consider the career of any one of these archbishops, therefore, it is necessary to consider collections other than that which bears his name.

The chronological range of the Armagh material as a whole is from the middle of the 14th to the middle of the 16th century, but it is not equally distributed over the whole period. Relatively few documents survive for the 14th century, and the Reformation marks an almost complete break; the next archiepiscopal register which is extant is that of Michael Boyle, Archbishop of Armagh, 1679-1702. For the century after the accession of Archbishop John Swayne, however, twelve hundred folios survive.

The Registers of Armagh, it has been said (by G.O. Sayles, reviewing Aubrey Gwynn, *The Medieval Province of Armagh, 1470-1545*, in *Irish Historical Studies*, vol. VI (1948-1949), p.151), '... constitute the largest and most important single source of original material, still surviving in Ireland, for its medieval past'. For no other see does there survive such a continuous and considerable corpus of original material. Its value was enhanced by the destruction in June 1922 of the Public Record Office in the Four Courts, Dublin, and the consequent loss of the public archives of Ireland almost in their entirety. This loss, it is true, can be offset to some extent by a careful investigation of documents preserved in English repositories, in particular the considerable body of material of Irish significance in the Public Record Office, London. ... For the ecclesiastical historian, the discovery in secular collections of information relevant to his special interest is very much a hit-or-miss affair. The scope of the English ecclesiastical historian, deprived of the resources of English registries, would be drastically curtailed, despite the embarrassment of riches in English public archives. How much more difficult is the task of the ecclesiastical historian in Ireland!

Compared, however, with other Irish provinces, Armagh is fortunate. Henry Cotton, who surveyed the content of the diocesan registries of Ireland in the middle of the 19th century, found in Ulster alone an exception to the loss and destruction apparent elsewhere. The diocese of Dublin, the only see whose records are at all comparable with those of Armagh, has three registers extant, but they are conscious compilations, purposeful and deliberate selections representing the interests and attitudes of later compilers rather than the surviving secretions of an administrative and legal system. ... In English registries the survival of material has often been due to the lack of any occasion for, even the difficulty of, its destruction rather than the intention to preserve it. In Ireland opportunities and occasions for destruction were only too frequent, great havoc having been wrought even before the Cromwellian period.



History of the registers

The first references to the Armagh registers occur in the early 17th century when they were used by Archbishop James Ussher as source material for historical research. In Ireland as in England, the flowering of historical studies was an aspect of the religious and political preoccupations of the age. Both Anglican divines and Catholic scholars contributed to the historical renaissance, and went diligently in the pursuit of historical knowledge. The readiness of both to put the results of their historical researches at the service of ecclesiastical polemic did not, however, preclude contact between scholars of the different faiths, and one of the most striking aspects of the period in Ireland is the contrast between the violence of public controversy on religious and political issues and the ease of private scholarly collaboration.



*James Ussher,
Archbishop of Armagh*

Ussher obtained access to the registers at an early stage in his career. His purpose was to obtain historical precedents and illustrations, and his miscellaneous notebooks in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, are filled with historical material, much of which originated in the Armagh collections. Ussher did not keep his knowledge of the registers to himself. His correspondence with other scholars, Protestant and Catholic alike, reveals him communicating information which he had extracted from that source, particularly when he had hopes of valuable information in return.

In the second half of the 17th century, scholars were familiar enough with the registers to draw upon their contents for support in their controversies. Perhaps the best example is a dispute concerning the primacy of the see of Armagh, not the less acrimonious because the disputants were of the one faith, the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, Oliver Plunket, and the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Peter Talbot.

The registers were not neglected in the 19th century, and in 1854 the first suggestion for their publication was made in print. Just before this, William Reeves had begun to make a transcript at the request of Archbishop Beresford, and the result of his work is now shared by the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and the Public Library, Armagh.



Ussher and the registers

The present form of the registers has usually been attributed to Archbishop Ussher. Dean Lawlor was in no doubt that the registers with which he was particularly concerned (i.e. of Sweteman and Fleming) owed their preservation "to the care of their famous successor". Professor Aubrey Gwynn ... [suggested] in 1943:

"There are many indications which suggest that the Armagh registers were bound for the first time in the 17th century - most probably under the direction of Archbishop Ussher in whose custody these volumes then were. Ussher was a great scholar, but he was a hasty worker - and he certainly does not seem to have taken much trouble to make sure that the medieval registers of his predecessors were properly examined and repaired when he gave the order for binding them." ...

It is not easy to establish from an examination of the manuscripts themselves and from Ussher's working papers the form of the material as he found it and to deduce the principles underlying his arrangement of it. The registers seem to be composed of previously existing units acquired by Ussher at various stages in his career, twelve of them at least as early as 1609, the remainder at some stage prior to binding them before 1630. The earlier acquisitions were lettered in Roman characters; those later acquisitions which could not conveniently be added to the earlier sequence were identified by Hebrew characters and interpolated in the sequence in their proper chronological context. ...'



Calendars and editions

In the period 1912-1944, calendars of four of the early registers were published – the Registers of Sweteman, Fleming, Swayne and Cromer, as follows:

H.J. Lawlor, 'A Calendar of the Register of Archbishop Sweteman', Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. XXXIX C (1911-1912), pp. 213-310.

H.J. Lawlor, 'A Calendar of the Register of Archbishop Fleming', *ibid.*, vol. XXX C (1912-1913), pp. 94-190.

L.P. Murray (continued by Aubrey Gwynn), 'Archbishop Cromer's Register', Louth Archaeological Journal, vol. VII (1929-1932), pp. 516-24; vol. VIII (1933-1936), pp. 38-49, 169-88, 257-74, 322-51; vol. IX (1937-1940), pp. 36-41, 124-30; vol. X (1941-1944), pp. 16-27, 165-79.

In 1935, 1972 and 1996 full scholarly editions of one of these registers and of two others were published. The first, in register order, was that of Archbishop Sweteman.



Milo Sweteman's Register, 1360-1380

The register of Milo Sweteman, Archbishop of Armagh 1361-1380 (DIO/4/2/1), is the earliest in date of the seven registers. A hand-written transcript made in the middle of the 19th century by Dean William Reeves, later Bishop of Down, is located in Trinity College Dublin (MS 557/1) and a finer version of this copy resides in Armagh Public Library (KG ii 7). Reeves was able to make out some passages in the manuscript which are no longer visible, so his transcript is important. Following the early 20th century publication by H.J. Lawlor of a calendar, a full edition, edited by Brendan Smith, was published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin, in 1996. The commentary which follows is taken from that source or from a contemporary article on Sweteman published by Dr Smith in *History Ireland*, vol. 4, no. 4 (Winter 1996).

'... The manuscript achieved its present form in the 1900s when it was separated from the register of Nicholas Fleming with which it had previously been bound in the early 17th century under the direction of Archbishop Ussher. The disarrangement of the contents of the manuscript had for the most part already occurred by the time it came into Ussher's possession. The register, as it now exists, neither contains material exclusively dating from Sweteman's primacy nor includes all the documents produced by his chancery which have survived. The register comprises gatherings of different types of documents which were grouped together, long after they were written, with little or no regard to the arrangement contemplated by the original writer. If a book of induction and a court book ever existed for Milo's archiepiscopate they have disappeared, as have any acts of provincial councils or diocesan synods which may have been recorded. The register as it now stands, preserved by PRONI, is therefore much less complete than it was in Milo's day and in chronological terms is very uneven (almost half of what survives deals with the years 1365-1367, for instance, while the decade 1371-1380 is the concern of only a handful of entries). However, what remains provides a fascinating insight into both the administration of the archdiocese of Armagh and the history of Ireland in the middle of the 14th century.

Milo came from English settler stock in Kilkenny. When his bishop and patron, Richard Ledred, expired in 1360 at the age of almost one hundred, the cathedral chapter elected Milo, who was by then treasurer of the diocese of Ossory, as his successor. He travelled to Rome for confirmation of his appointment only to find that in the meantime Pope Innocent VI had appointed English Dominican, John Tatenhall, to the bishopric. Instead, the Pope provided Milo to the archbishopric of Armagh, vacant since the death of Richard Fitz Ralph in the same year. Former chancellor of Oxford University, teacher of Wycliffe and scourge of the Franciscans, Fitz Ralph was the most outstanding churchman Ireland had produced since Malachy. Filling his shoes would have been difficult in the best of circumstances, but to make matters worse Fitz Ralph had also been a local man, having been born and reared in Dundalk. His ferocious criticisms of his own people while archbishop were probably tolerated because of this local association; such forbearance was unlikely to be extended to an outsider.

Milo was consecrated in November 1361 and received the temporalities of the archdiocese from the King of England in February the following year. His experience of settler feuding and English-Irish conflict in the turbulent Kilkenny region ... may have prepared him to some extent for what lay ahead in Armagh, but the challenges he faced in his new position remained daunting. Some of his own priests, for instance, were disaffected and ... Milo had on more than one occasion ... to defend himself against malicious charges about his conduct brought before the Pope by his own clergy. On another front he was forced to fight long and hard to have his position as head of the Irish Church recognised against the counter-claims of the archbishop of Dublin. Milo did not live to see Armagh's final victory in this contest and its consequence for his own career was in effect to sideline him politically, as he refused to enter the ecclesiastical province of Dublin – wherein, of course, lay the centre of English power in Ireland – unless his ecclesiastical primacy was recognised.



Frontier society

The division of Ireland into areas settled by the English and those controlled by the Irish was firmly established by the fourteenth century and dictated the character of the Irish Church. The English-controlled diocese of Meath, for instance, never saw an Irish bishop after 1200, while Raphoe or Derry never saw an English one. The situation in the diocese of Armagh was particularly complex as it contained within it areas of both English and Irish control. In the south, Co. Louth was solidly English, while in the north – which included the cathedral city of Armagh itself – power lay with the Uí hAnluain and behind them their more powerful sponsors the Uí Neill. Milo lived among the English of Louth, dividing his time between his two manors of Dromiskin and Termonfeckin, and acted as an important font of patronage for members of the local gentry who served in his household and received from him land and wardships as well as appointments to act as his attorney or attend parliament on his behalf.

Relations with the local settler elite were not always smooth. Milo clashed dramatically, for instance, with perhaps the most powerful man in the county, Sir Thomas de Verdon. Milo seems to have succeeded in facing down de Verdon, but the incident revealed the propensity for violent conduct which characterised this frontier society. Across the frontier, in the areas controlled by the Irish, Milo faced a world very different from his own. In purely ecclesiastical terms the Irish church operated without a parochial structure while recognising types of clergy which were unknown elsewhere in Christendom. Even more exotically, for to the north-west in the Irish-controlled diocese of Clogher lay the famous and mysterious pilgrimage centre of Patrick's Purgatory on Lough Derg. In 1366 Milo commended to the hospitality of the prior of the site two Italian pilgrims who were anxious to experience its penitential rigours.



Incest and adultery

The Irish bishops in the province of Armagh were more often than not members of the local ruling secular dynasty, and their grasp of the responsibilities which episcopal office entailed was often tenuous. The most notoriously lax of Milo's suffragan's was Riocard Ó Raghallaigh, Bishop of Kilmore, whom Milo excommunicated in 1366 on charges of incest and adultery with his first-cousin. Enforcing such sentences in areas where English power did not hold sway was far from easy and in this case Milo eventually called upon the King of Breifne, Pilib Ó Raghallaig – a kinsman of Riocard's – to remove the Bishop. Riocard subsequently wrote to Milo to complain that he had been despoiled by Pilib, to which Milo replied that it was entirely his own fault as he had been living in mortal sin for years.



Sweteman as arbiter between the Irish and the English

... The Archbishop of Armagh was uniquely placed to arbitrate between the two sides of his province and was frequently called upon to do so. Although Milo belonged to the colonial community – he would never have become archbishop had he been Irish – he was at pains to show himself impartial between the two nations. He frequently made the dangerous journey to his cathedral city of Armagh and employed Irish clergy in the most important and sensitive posts, even choosing Odo Mac Diomáin, Chancellor of Armagh, to act as his representative at the Roman curia. It is impossible to know whether such a balanced approach on Milo's part helped defuse potential conflict, but it is clear that the most important Irish leaders in Ulster – despite their habitual encroachments on church property – did respect and trust the Archbishop and were prepared to avail of his mediating services....'



John Swayne's Register, 1418-1439

An edition of The Register of John Swayne, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, 1418-1439, with some entries of earlier and later Archbishops, was published by HMSO, Belfast, on behalf of PRONI in 1935, under the editorship of D.A. Chart, the first Deputy Keeper of the Records of Northern Ireland.

As the introduction states: '... It is composed of four sections, each of which was probably an independent entry book [and its covering dates are c.1414-1418 and c.1421-1450]. Each section has a separate pagination. Since the entries seldom maintain for long any chronological sequence and there are frequently considerable movements backwards or forwards in time, it is evident that in many cases a long interval must have elapsed between the making of the document and its copy into the book. The material, apart from some pages of parchment in section 4, is paper, and the volume is accordingly frail and requires very delicate handling. The use of paper in so early a register is noteworthy. The hand generally used is of the first half of the 15th century. Apparently the sections were bound together in the late 16th or early 17th century.

Two transcripts of the register are available, one apparently made towards the end of the 18th century by an unknown hand, the other made by William Reeves, probably during the course of his tenure of the Deanery and Librarianship (1875-1886) and preserved in Trinity College, Dublin. The former was of particular importance as showing an earlier reading where the text has now become defective or illegible. Some further extracts from an Act Book of Archbishop Swayne's are contained in British Library Additional MS. 4784. ...

Some details of the life of Archbishop Swayne are available from other sources than the present volume. His rise was apparently due to papal favour and employment, and he was in later life something of a pluralist. He was absent from Ireland for several years (1409-1418) immediately preceding his appointment to the archbishopric. In 1412 he was Papal Secretary, and was studying in Rome. His consecration took place in 1418 at Rome after the elections of two other persons (one of them presumably that of Robert Fitzhugh ...) had been set aside by the Pope (Cotton, *Fasti Ecclesiae Hibernicae* III, p. 16). He resigned the primacy on account of the infirmity of old age in 1439 and ... was dead by October 1442



The Church on the defensive

The register opens with the Church very much on the defensive, apparently against the attacks of laymen and secular authorities on its position and possessions. This is strikingly shown by the confederation of the whole Irish hierarchy for mutual preservation in 1291. This is much before the time of Primate Swayne and has probably been entered for a memorial. The same fear is manifested in the preface to the papal union of the sees of Cork and Cloyne in 1383, where the Pope states that he is acting on previous representations from the Kings of England that the Irish cathedrals are individually so weak that they cannot defend their rights against encroachment. The next entry but one in date is a long and valuable copy of provincial constitutions made mostly during Archbishop Colton's tenure of the see (1383-1389). These contain many provisions against oppressors of the Church or confiscators of its property.

They also give the first evidence of the internal state of the Church, for instance, the difficulties of enforcing clerical celibacy or faithful attention to episcopal duties, the discouragement of popular superstitions and tumultuous amusements. It is noteworthy also that these constitutions contain directions for the veneration of the peculiarly Irish saints such as Patrick, Bridget and Columbkil, and (for Armagh Diocese only) Feghin and Ronanus.

The Council of Constance now begins to appear in the entries. The main interest of this part of the register arises from the broils between the English nation at that council and a section of the French nation, led apparently by Pierre D'Ailly, Cardinal of Cambrai, and supported by the Spanish nation. This came to a climax on 5th November 1416, when the Spanish representatives disclaimed any acceptance of the English claim to act as a nation. This led to a tumult.

Under date 30 October 1417, there is a detailed account of proceedings at Armagh Cathedral for the election of a new archbishop. Richard Talbot, who had been elected, had not secured confirmation within the legal period and had since become Archbishop of Dublin. The choice of the assembled clergy fell on Robert Fitzhugh, Rector of Finglas, but apparently he too was not confirmed in the office. About 1428 Primate Swayne's enemies appear to have lodged a complaint against him with Pope Martin V, and there is an interesting letter from the Archbishop to the Pope introducing John Prene, afterwards his successor, who had been sent to represent his cause at Rome.

The troubled state of Ireland generally at this time is shown by two long letters in English: one is written to James Butler, Earl of Ormond, and the other to an unnamed "Prince", most probably Richard, Duke of York. ...



'Armagh amongst the Irish'

One of the most interesting features of this register is its display of the compromises necessary in the administration of a diocese which was half in the King's country and half in that of native princes. The cathedral itself was in a part which did not acknowledge the King's sway. In these circumstances there grew up a division of the diocese into "Armagh amongst the English" and "Armagh amongst the Irish." So far as can be seen Archbishop Swayne, who was of the English section, seldom set foot in the Irish part of his diocese. His administration was mainly conducted from Termonfechin, Co. Louth. A fair number of documents are dated from Dromiskin and Drogheda, but hardly any from Armagh city. The control of the Irish part was exercised through the medium of the Dean of Armagh who was for most of this period Denis Occulean. His obedience to the Archbishop was not uniform, and his conduct is occasionally censured, particularly as regards his keeping of the seal of the chapter. ...



Armagh versus Dublin

The close of the book is largely taken up with summonses of the clergy to Parliament. These include several references to the controversy of the Primate with the Archbishop of Dublin relative to his title of Primacy, and the carrying of his cross in the diocese of Dublin. The summonses emanated from the Irish Government, in which the then Archbishop of Dublin was frequently justiciar, and in any writ issued to the Archbishop of Armagh under his influence the title of Primate is omitted. The reply of the Archbishop of Armagh always registers a protest, and throughout the volume he refuses to attend Parliament whenever it is summoned to meet within the archbishopric of Dublin. ...



Irish pilgrimages and practices

The purely ecclesiastical matters dealt with are also of very great interest. There are references to pilgrimages to Rome and to St Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg, the latter by a foreigner. The Archbishop endeavours from time to time to enforce clerical celibacy, which is apparently not observed by some of his suffragan bishops. A peremptory admonition on the subject is addressed to the Bishop of Down. After the death of Bishop Cornelius O'Farrell of Ardagh, a letter is addressed to a woman and her son, the latter of whom bears the same name as the bishop, calling on them to return what was called the principalia, that is to say the deceased bishop's horse, cup and ring. ...

The sidelights on the purely Irish part of the country are interesting and comparatively speaking numerous. There are frequent references to those still somewhat shadowy figures, the herenachs and the co-orbs. There are also several interesting references to native tenure, which seems to be recognised as an alternative to the ordinary feudal method There are of course innumerable cases of raiding by Irish clans which showed no respect to buildings associated with religion if they were in the hands of their enemies, and are reported to have carried off on one occasion a missal and vestments. Indeed, raiders did not always respect the property of ecclesiastics of their own race, for an O'Neill is charged with plundering Dean Occulean's lands and killing his men. ...'



John Mey's Register, 1443-1456

An edition of this register was published, as has been seen, in 1972. In the words of Quigley and Roberts's introduction to this edition, the register '... clearly is a 17th century creation, but the "books" which compose it have a history going back at least as far as the early 16th century. But it is questionable whether Registrum Iohannis Mey can in any sense be regarded as the register of that primate, or, in the case of Book I, that of his predecessor. It is clear that the collection has little in common with an English bishop's register of the most formal kind, or, indeed with the more ordered products of the Armagh Chancery itself. ...

[It may be best] to regard Mey's Register as a collection of miscellaneous notes and drafts by its compiler, William Somerwell, in his various capacities as notary and registrar preparatory to the production of instruments and their registration where appropriate. Considered as a bishop's register it lacks many of the features of the collections to which that term is generally applied and contains much that would have been more appropriately filed in the other collections which we know to have existed in Armagh. As we have seen, it is difficult to draw a line between entries which might or might not be included in a bishop's register; but the presence in Prene's Register of two folios of Bristol records and in Octavian's Register of two folios containing an extract from Virgil's Georgics clearly makes some discrimination a necessity. There seems, for example, to be little connection between the business of the see and the charters embodied in a public instrument drawn up by Somerwell as notary in his own house in Drogheda. ...



William Somerwell

In the evolution of Mey's Register Somerwell therefore emerges as a central if somewhat shadowy figure. ... [He] was created notary on 22 March 1422 at Trim by John, Bishop of Leighlin His first stay in Ireland cannot have been a long one. His return to Ireland can be dated fairly closely, for on 26 March 1429 he was promoted to the orders of subdeacon and deacon in St Peter's, Drogheda. His scribal activities date from this period, and it is possible that we possess the first pages of the earliest primatial register which he kept. The latest document in his hand is dated at Armagh on 23 November 1458. ... [He] was often entrusted with the execution of important duties in the administration of the province, and even wider afield. In 1436 he attended the King's Council at Drogheda as proctor of the Archbishop, and in 1452 acted as commissary-general of the Archdeacon of Armagh. ...'



The later Registers

The Register ('Liber Niger') of Archbishop George Dowdall, 1540-1546, exists only in the form of a late 17th or early 18th century transcript, and a calendar of it by L.P. Murray was published in the Louth Archaeological Journal, vol. VI (1925-1928), pp.90-100, 147-58, 213-28, vol. VII (1929-1932), pp.78-95, 258-75.

There then follow, after a long gap, 2 overlapping volumes of the Register of Archbishops Michael Boyle, Narcissus Marsh and Thomas Lindsay, 1678-1719, and – after a still longer gap – the Registers of Archbishops Marcus Gervais Beresford, 1871-1879, of Beresford and Archbishop Robert Bent Knox, 1879-1892, of Knox and Archbishops Robert Samuel Gregg and William Alexander, 1892-1896, of Alexander and Archbishops John Baptist Crozier and Charles Frederick Darcy, 1906-1925, and of Darcy and Archbishops John Godfrey Fitzmaurice Day and John Allen Fitzgerald Gregg, 1925-1943.



Metropolitan communications

These are dated 1856, 1861 and 1871-1958, and comprise purely formal communications to the Archbishops of Armagh from the Church of England, the Episcopalian Church of Scotland and from Churches all over the world in communion with the Anglican Church, most of them announcing to the Archbishops of Armagh the election and the consecration of archbishops and bishops all over the world, but some them taking the form of cautions against offending clergy who have sinned elsewhere and therefore should not be allowed to obtain institution in the archdiocese of Armagh.



Visitation, rental and account books relating to all-Ireland

These date from [1617?], 1622, 1659, 1693, 1700-1704 and 1715-1737.

The item of [1617?] is 'A book of taxation [to the crown?] of some ecclesiastical livings in the kingdom of Ireland' in all dioceses of Ireland; with an index of dioceses at the back.

Another volume contains, at the front, a 'State of the temporalities and churches of Armagh in 1622', and, at the back, a 'Charge and discharge of the forfeited tithes in the diocese of Killaloe for the year 1700-[1704]'. The next is a volume of 1659 described on the front-fly leaf as 'A book made up in the time of the usurpation, with this title, viz. "Bishops' lands of Ireland and of other dignitaries, extracted out of ancient records thereof, and compared with what is in present charge, 1659"'. Then follows a volume entitled (and living up to this description) an 'Account of the state of the different dioceses in Ireland in 1693', pursuant to an order from the Lords Justices of Ireland. Finally, there is a very miscellaneous volume covering the period 1715-1737 and itemising renewal fines, duty payments, fiats for faculties, briefs, proceeds from impropriate tithes, etc, for the metropolitan province of Armagh and also for the archdiocese or dioceses of (in order of appearance in the volume during the period 1715-1720) Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Ferns, Ossory, Waterford, Clogher, Tuam, Clonfert, Cashel, Cork, Cloyne, Killaloe and Elphin.



Historical compilations

This is an intractable part of the archive, because it consists of original and copy material, 1360-1774, mainly by John Lodge, Keeper of the Records in the Birmingham Tower, Dublin Castle, and Henry Upton, Deputy Registrar of the Consistorial Court of Armagh, most of it relating to the lands and rights of the Primacy and of the archdiocese of Armagh. Without running to excessive length and defeating the present object, it is impossible to describe the contents of volumes so miscellaneous and with so long a date span. Suffice it to say that the geographical spread is from Donaghadee, Co. Down, to places in the diocese of Cloyne, Co. Cork, that a great deal of important secular, governmental material is included, and that these volumes cut across the classification scheme of the archive at almost every conceivable point. There is therefore no alternative to consulting PRONI's detailed list of their contents.

A particularly important 'oddment' is a 52-page account of the 1737 session of parliament, entitled 'Irish politics displayed', and apparently the work of Sir Richard Cox, 2nd Bt, of Dunmanway, Co. Cork.



Ecclesiastical law

This section of the archive comprises papers, of a very general nature, 1607, 1623, 1632, and c.1667-1970. They include papers and legal opinions about the Primate's right to present to livings during the vacancy of a see, c.1674, the form of absolution to a Quaker, c.1674, and 'Rules to be observed on uniting and dividing parishes and changing the site of parish churches', N.D. Other, later, papers of 1824-c.1826 relate to various points of ecclesiastical law, including what is to be done about a Roman Catholic or Dissenting clergyman who officiates at a burial in a parish churchyard, the terms and conditions on which the Church in Ulster participated in the forfeitures of the early 17th century, forms for establishing perpetual cures, granting faculties, condemning houses and offices (on grounds of dilapidation), etc, and the provisions of the Residence Act of 1826. Later material includes papers of November-December 1865 about the Dean of Cloyne's complaints of invasion of the rights of deans.



Prerogative court

The papers about the Prerogative Court of Armagh run from 1695 to 1855. They principally consist of formal documents, case papers and letters, 1695, 1699, 1740, 1821, 1835 and 1855, about the offices of the Prerogative Court – the Judgeship, the Registrarship and the Deputy Registrarship. The items of 1740 are two volumes containing duplicate copies of the proceedings in Chancery over the Judgeship, to which Dr Nathaniel Bland had been appointed as a locum tenens in 1738, pending the recovery or death of the then Judge, Dr Marmaduke Coghill, but which Bland refused to resign until ousted from the office by the legal proceedings taken by the Primate. The items of 1835 are letters from the then Judge, Dr John Radcliffe, to the Primate seeking authority to appoint a deputy.



Education

The papers about education and various all-Ireland educational establishments run from 1615 to 1957, and have been arranged so as to exclude papers about individual parish schools and about educational foundations which were part of a more wide-ranging charity (and will therefore be found in the 'Charities' section).

The earliest papers relate to the free or royal schools of Ulster in general or about individual free or royal schools, particularly Armagh, from 1615 onwards. The papers about the free schools in general include a return of 1615 signed by the Lord Deputy, Sir Arthur Chichester. The papers about Armagh free or royal school are dated 1636 and 1772-1871 and mainly relate to the schoolmaster's house and the school lands at Mountnorris, Co. Armagh. Smaller bundles of papers document Dungannon free or royal school and Enniskillen free school, alias Portora royal school, 1617-1828 and 1867, and there are a few 18th and 19th century papers about the Ballymena, Cavan and Raphoe free schools.

Papers about the University of Dublin run from the 1620s to 1914, and include several papers of its Vice-Chancellor, Anthony Dopping, Bishop of Meath, about its state during the reign of James II, a full description of the order of Commencements, 1682 (in the handwriting of Archbishop Marsh), four printed broadside programmes for Commencements entertainments, 1678-1688, a letter about Primate Beresford's proposed public defence of Trinity College, 1840, and a letter about designs for the Campanile, 1852.



The Erasmus Smith endowment

The related Erasmus Smith endowment is particularly well documented in this part of the archive. Erasmus Smith was a Cromwellian profiteer and land speculator who, in the period 1667-1670, deemed it prudent to create an endowment for schools for the cynical purpose of warding off a parliamentary inquiry into the rest of his estates, amounting to some 30,000 acres in some ten counties. The schools originally set up were three grammar schools in Drogheda, Galway and Tipperary. The provisions of the endowment stated that surplus revenues were to be applied to setting up schools to benefit the tenants on the Smith estates. But in the event the surplus which did accrue was diverted for the benefit of Trinity (in 1724, 1762 and in 1774) and to set up 'English schools' with an overtly proselytising purpose.

As S.S. Brown writes, in his QUB MA dissertation, 'A survey of the Records available for the Study of the Erasmus Smith Endowment' (June 1982): '...Throughout the history of the trust the primates played pre-eminent roles in the administration, as treasurers. A new treasurer was elected every three years and could have been any one of the thirty-two Governors. However, the archbishops held the position very regularly beginning with James Margetson (1600-1867), who was treasurer in 1670 when the charter of Charles II was granted. ... The Armagh Diocesan Registry papers are an important source, ... since the majority of the documents are of the 18th century and provide evidence of the growth of the trust in this period. The revenues can be seen to be increasing and the Governors' efforts to proselytise through the promotion of the 'English schools' is evident. ... There are very few extant records for this period elsewhere, the majority ... being mainly 19th and 20th century in date. ...

[The papers] ... include a copy of the charter of Charles II (1670), which sets out the principles on which the trust was to be administered, ... [and of] the act of George I, 1723, which disposed of surplus rents in favour of Trinity College Many of the ensuing documents deal with the problems this grant caused. Another grant to Trinity College in 1762 imposed great financial strain on the trust, and a further grant in 1774 had to be rescinded in 1780 due to the burden of increased expenditure. These documents are evidence of the diversion of money away from the original charitable intentions, that is, the apprenticing out of the children of poor tenants. ...

[There follow] a variety of documents on financial concerns (receipts, certificates and accounts), deriving from the treasurerships of Primates Boulter and Hoadly. The documents are routine and pro forma and are useful insofar as they illustrate the day-to-day administration of the trust schools between 1739 and 1743. ... Another group of documents takes the form of petitions to the board, c.1770-1795, mainly for a renewal of leases. ...

There is also an important series of returns, mostly dated 1795, from the various schools to the Governors. These returns give details of the size of school, the type of buildings and their situation. There are also lists of names of the children attending the schools, with their ages and the books they use detailed. There is, for example, a return from Zelva school on Valentia Island, Co. Kerry. There is also a letter to Primate Stuart in 1814 asking him to inquire into the state of the 'English schools' in his diocese.



Other educational endowments

Other, mostly later, material about education includes letters and papers about Rainey-Endowed School, Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry, 1707-1836, the Weymouth School at Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, 1711 and 1782 (which was founded by the landlord of the town, Lord Weymouth, in the former year), and the Charter Schools, 1762-1844, and the post-Union British government's increasing disenchantment with this allegedly proselytising organisation. Of particular interest is a large bundle of correspondence, 1845-1846, of Primate Beresford with William Sewell, J.H. Todd, Lord Adare and others about the founding of St Columba's, Dublin.

Many of the papers in this and the succeeding 'Charities' section derive from the fact that the Primate was much in demand as an ex officio trustee or visitor of such foundations.



Charities

This section of the archive excludes material relating to Primate Robinson's Armagh City endowments (for which, see DIO/4/40).

It includes papers, 1711-1808, 1863-1868, 1897 and 1923, about that part of Primate Marsh's and Primate Boulter's charitable bequests which related to providing money to augment clerical incomes and money for houses and pensions for the widows of deserving clergymen – especially the latter. There is a considerable body of late 18th-century correspondence about houses in Drogheda available for clergymen's widows, and of 19th-century correspondence and legal opinions of the 1860s and 1890s concerning the situation of these charitable bequests in the light of the ecclesiastical reforms of the period – particularly the definition of the term 'curate'. Also are originals and copies of Primate Marsh's and Primate Boulter's wills.

In addition, there are letters, 1737-1836 and a few thereafter, relating to the Drelincourt Charity, Armagh, and the small Co. Tyrone estate from which its income derived, and letters and papers, 1740-1785, about Archibald Hutcheson's charity - a somewhat complicated bequest of some £7,000, of which Hutcheson's poor relations were to be the first beneficiaries, and after them the deserving poor of Co. Antrim.

A larger volume of material relates to the estate, financial and legal affairs of Stearne's Charity, 1744 and 1773-1870, founded under the will (1744) of John Stearne, Bishop of Clogher, and based on his estate at Middletown, Co. Armagh. The tenants of the Stearne Charity estate seem to have been frequently aggrieved, as were the disappointed relations of another benefactor, George Vaughan of Bunrana, Co. Donegal. The papers relating to Vaughan's Charity, principally Tubrid School, Co. Fermanagh, and the Donegal and Fermanagh estates on which it was based, runs from 1753 (the date of Vaughan's will) to 1792, with some later papers as well.

Other charities documented, though to a smaller degree, are: Richard Jackson's Charity at Forkhill, Co. Armagh, 1757-1907, Hugh Boyd's Charity at Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, 1762-1890, and Wilson's Hospital (ie School), Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath, 1744-1811 (including some interesting letters bearing on 'the Battle of Wilson's Hospital' in 1798).

Of more general interest is a series of 7 volumes, 1701-1704 and 1771-1783, containing – as was by law required - returns from the Prerogative Office of wills with a charitable content probated during the years covered by the volumes.



Convocation

The paper about Convocation, which last met in Ireland in 1711, include: formal documents about Convocation, among them a copy of a patent for holding Convocation, 1634, a copy of a commission to the same purport, 1661, and the original of a confirmation of canons, 1714; a small folio volume containing, among other things, copies of the acts of Convocation, 1639-1641 and 1661-1666, together with copies of letters from the Lord Deputy, Thomas Wentworth, later Earl of Strafford, to William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1635, and of Dean Andrew's deliberations about the relationship between the canons of England and Ireland, [1635?]; journals of the Upper House of Convocation, 1701-1713 (although, as already noted, Convocation last met in 1711); and correspondence and formal documents of the period 1861-1869, about ideas of reviving Convocation in the era of Disestablishment and as part of the post-Disestablishment structure of the Church of Ireland.



Papers reflecting the and other offices held by the Primate reflecting his general role as head of the Church of Ireland

This highly unsatisfactory heading is intended to encapsulate the role of the Primate, qua Primate, and also as a Lord Justice and a leading political magnate.

Apart from some one-off items, the section includes a significant volume of documentation, 1713-1827, reflecting the Primate's position as the leading member of the Board of First Fruits. Of these, the 18th-century papers relate mainly to the board's allocation of its funds in supplementing the incomes of various clergymen, but there are also papers about the provision of houses and pensions for clergymen's widows, as the board administered the already-mentioned charitable bequests of Primate Marsh and Boulter for that purpose. The early 19th-century papers relate primarily to the board's scheme for advancing money on loan towards the building of new glebe-houses, and include returns of the state and incidence of glebe-houses all over the country.

Also present are papers of the two successive Primate Beresfords, 1819, 1830-1845, 1852, 1863 and 1867, mainly in connection with the Ecclesiastical Commission; papers of Primate Lord John George Beresford about the tithe question, the Clerical Relief Fund, etc, 1826, 1832-1839 and 1851; a series of petitions, 1834, with original signatures, from the bishops and clergy of most dioceses in Ireland to the King exhorting him to prevent further in-roads on the rights and privileges of the Church of Ireland; original bundles of returns, February-May 1844, with covering letters, from bishops and clergy to Primate Beresford, of the extent of pluralism, non-residence and various other abuses in most dioceses in Ireland; miscellaneous political and semi-political papers of Primate Beresford, 1839-1862; and papers of Primate Marcus Gervais Beresford and the Rev. Alexander Irwin, Precentor of Armagh and secretary to the Primate, about Disestablishment, 1867-1871.



Papers documenting the private business affairs of Armagh ecclesiastical functionaries

These run from 1673 to 1871 and are highly miscellaneous in content – and some of them of uncertain provenance.

By way of example, they include: accounts between Primate Robinson and the Sardinian architect/engineer, Davis Dukart, 1769-1778, for the Primate's share in the Drumglass colliery, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. In volume the largest component of the section is title deeds, leases, rentals, accounts and correspondence, 1726-1820, all relating to the estates and financial affairs of Primate Lord John George Beresford's maternal grandfather, Henry Monck of Charleville, Bray, Co. Wicklow, and particularly to the manor of Grange Gorman, Co. Wicklow, and certain lands in Cos Dublin and Wexford (all of which ultimately passed to Primate Beresford), including two settlements relating to the Bentinck/Portland family (Monck's wife, Lady Isabella, was a daughter of 1st Duke of Portland), two cancelled leases from Viscount Fitzwillian of Merrion of tenements in Dublin City, and a copy of Monck's will, made in 1784.

(The bulk of Henry Monck's real property descended to a collateral branch of his family, the future Viscounts Monck. However, the above-mentioned part of his real property, and personal property to the tune of £100,000, went to his daughter, Elizabeth, Marchioness of Waterford, wife of the 1st Marquess and mother of the future Primate. By her will of 1802, of which a copy is present, she left Grange Gorman, etc, etc, to him.)

The papers also include repetitious accounts of the history and genealogy of the Monck family, 1760, and correspondence of the period 1765-1777 relating to Henry Monck's officious interference in the financial affairs of his son-in-law, Lord Waterford, then Earl of Tyrone, in Lord Tyrone's building plans at his Co. Waterford seat, Curraghmore, in his plans for the education of the Tyrones' eldest son, etc, etc.

Also deriving from the private estate affairs of Primate Beresford is a large bundle of letters and papers, 1824 and 1829-1834, about the (unsuccessful?) attempt of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to challenge his title to Derryvally, part of his family property in Co. Cavan. This legal battle has heavy political undertones, as it was between the Whig government in Great Britain and a leading light among the Irish Tories, and because the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests was Lord Duncannon, the Ponsonby heir, and therefore a scion of the family which were traditional political rivals of the Beresfords.



Miscellaneous

The genuinely - or rather even more - miscellaneous papers are dated 1646-1652 and 1736-1887. They include an assignment by Lord Mountjoy of a playhouse in Aungier Street, Dublin, 1736, and 'Instructions for executing the commission [from the High Court of Admiralty] for examination of witnesses at Kinsale in the kingdom of Ireland upon the several provisions of articles of an allegation and certain additional articles to such allegation, given in and admitted on the part and behalf of John Hughes, commander of the private ship of war, "The Boyne", 1745.



Papers relating to the metropolitan provinces of Cashel, Dublin and Tuam (in their pre-1833 definition, minus Elphin).

The significance of the year 1833 as a watershed, and the subtraction of the diocese of Elphin, require initial explanation.

Under the terms of the Church Temporalities Act of 1833, the archbishopric of Tuam was due to be reduced from the status of a bishopric on the death of its then incumbent (which took place in 1839). From 1839, the metropolitan provinces of Armagh and Tuam became merged, with Primate Lord John George Beresford and his successors as Archbishops of Armagh becoming metropolitans of the combined provinces. In 1841, again under the Church Temporalities Act and following the death of the current incumbent, the bishopric of Elphin was merged with that of Kilmore and Ardagh (itself representing a merger of an earlier date). At the same time Elphin became part of the metropolitan province of Armagh, having previously been part of Tuam. However, the basis on which the records were compiled makes it necessary to treat Elphin as if it had been part of Armagh the whole time.



Cashel, Emly, Lismore and Waterford

The papers relating to the archdiocese of Cashel (which became a diocese after 1833) and the dioceses of Emly, Lismore and Waterford, all in the metropolitan province of Cashel, run - with many gaps - from 1629-1945, and mainly comprise formal documents, apart from letters to and from Sir Richard Nagle about Tallow church, Co. Waterford, 1689, and a letter from Nathaniel Foy, Bishop of Waterford, to William King, Bishop of Derry, 1697.

Aghadoe, Ardfert and Limerick

Papers relating to these three dioceses, also in the metropolitan province of Cashel, are few and far between and fall within the period c.1700-1960.

Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Papers relating to the dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, also in the province of Cashel, include a licence to consecrate the Bishop of Cloyne, 1638, and a licence to consecrate the Bishops of both Cork and Clonfert, 1722.

Killaloe, Clonfert, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh

Papers relating to these dioceses, in the metropolitan province of Tuam, run - with many gaps - from 1772 to 1962, and include a visitation return for Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, 1850.

Dublin, Kildare and Glendalough

Papers relating to the archdiocese of Dublin and the dioceses of Kildare and Glendalough, all in the metropolitan province of Dublin, are more numerous and date from 1240, 1424, 1586, 1605 and 1660-1969. 

They include papers about St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and its cathedral functionaries, among them: two copies of Archbishop Luke's grant of the tithes of Stillorgan to the Prior and Convent of the Holy Trinity, 1240; a copy of a paper about the tithes of fish payable to the Church of the Holy Trinity, 1424; a copy of King James I's charter to the Church of the Holy Trinity, 1605; a list of 'Prebends of St Patrick's church seized', 1689; a legal case paper about the tithes of Stillorgan, [c.1760]; and a petition from the Dean and Chapter against the proposed transfer of Marsh's Library to the new National Gallery of Ireland, [c.1865].

There are also papers about Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and its cathedral functionaries, including: rentals and other papers about the income of the deanery of Christ Church and bishopric of Kildare (which were held in commendam), 1660-1746 and 1807; legal case papers about the claims of the Archdeacon of Christ Church, 1809-1810; and papers of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners about the precentorship of Christ Church, 1836.

Papers about individual parishes in Dublin, Kildare and Glendalough are as follows: Swords, Malahide, etc, 1761; St Thomas's, Dublin, 1762; Kilcullen, 1774; St Andrew's, [Dublin?], 1780-1784; Wicklow, 1828; and Rathfarnham, 1967.

There are also papers of Primate Lord John George Beresford, who was Archbishop of Dublin, 1820-1822, before his translation to the primacy, 1802, 1820-1822 and 1824, mainly concerning compensation paid by archbishops of Dublin to the representatives of their predecessors for money spent on improving the palace at Tallaght, the see house in St Stephen's Green, etc, and in building a courthouse and marshalsea in the parish of St Sepulchre's.

Ferns, Leighlin and Ossory

The papers relating to the dioceses of Ferns, Leighlin and Ossory, all in the metropolitan province of Dublin, fall within in the years 1675-1938 and are all formal or very miscellaneous in content.

Tuam, Achonry and Killala

There are a few papers relating to Tuam, Achonry and Killala prior to 1839, when they became part of the metropolitan province of Armagh and so fell to be visited by the Archbishop of Armagh. These are dated 1757, c.1780 and 1808. With these exceptions, papers in this section consist of formal documents about the election and enthronement of Bishops of the (by then) united dioceses of Tuam, Achonry and Killala, 1866-1970, and visitation returns and other visitation papers, 1850, 1853, 1862, 1865 and 1868.



Maps, surveys and plans relating to lands and buildings in the province of Armagh

Although the geographical scope of the section is the province of Armagh, the vast majority of the documents relate to the archdiocese, and apart from documents relating to the archdiocese have no ecclesiastical significance (for example, maps of Sir Arthur Chichester's Inishowen estate, Co. Donegal), and some of them no obvious reason for being in the archive. It should be noted that the surveys include non-pictorial surveys; the dividing line between these and the rentals (DIO/4/45) is often fine.

The maps, surveys and plans are arranged as follows: volume containing bound-in original documents, with a list of contents in the handwriting of Henry Upton in the front fly-leaves, [late 17th-early 18th century]; surveys, 1642, 1725-1795, 1819 and 1838; survey rentals, 1725, 1728, 1743 and 1824; survey maps, 1662, 1685, 1706-1730, 1764-1777, 1795-1796, 1817-1836 and 1852-1862; maps, 1714, 1725-1730, 1742-1749, 1765-1793, 1811-1816, 1825-1871 and 1900; Ordnance Survey material, 1835-1870 and 1900-1910; and plans, estimates, specifications, building accounts, etc, 1768-1863 and 1900-1901.



Triennial visitation papers for the province of Armagh

These papers relate to the whole metropolitan province of Armagh which, from 1839, included the former metropolitan province of Tuam as well. The earliest of them is actually not a visitation paper at all, but a return made by William Parsons (Surveyor-General of Ireland) in 1617 of glebes in the northern counties granted to incumbents. There is a royal visitation book for Ulster, 1622, triennial visitation returns for the metropolitan province of Armagh, 1661, 1664, 1679 and 1754, and more miscellaneous triennial visitation papers, 1778, 1829, 1831, 1859-1861 and 1868-1871.



Ardagh, Elphin and Kilmore

This section comprises papers about the dioceses of Ardagh, Elphin and Kilmore, province of Armagh, 1632-1962. Much of the material is of a formal kind, either relating to the election and enthronement of bishops, 1631-1961, or relating to the clergy of the dioceses, 1801 and 1861-1962. The formal documents relating to the clergy comprise petitions for faculties, nominations, letters testimonial, recommendatory and dimissory, certificates of oaths and declarations having been taken, si quis, bene decessits, presentations, institutions, etc.

There are also visitation (and rural deans') returns, mostly taking each dioceses as a separate entity, 1733, c.1820 and 1828-1868 (with gaps). The visitation return of 1733 takes Ardagh and Kilmore together and also incorporates Clogher. There is also a bundle of papers about individual parishes within the dioceses, as follows: Belturbet, 1713; Killina, 1775, Kilbixy, N.D.; Ardcarne and Drumcliffe, 1849; and Rathaspic, 1855. Of architectural interest are two papers, 1804 and 1829, about improvements and dilapidations to the see house of Kilmore, Co. Cavan.



Clogher

Papers about the diocese of Clogher (which was not only in the province of Armagh but was also merged with the archbishopric in 1850-1886), are dated 1638, 1611-1705 and 1732-1974. These include formal documents relating to Bishops of Clogher, 1820, 1822, 1886, 1903, 1907-1908, 1923, 1943-1944, 1958, 1969-1970 and 1973, and formal documents about Clogher clergy, 1661-1705, 1853, 1857, 1868, 1970 and 1973. There are also letters and papers about numerous individual parishes in the dioceses.

Papers about improvements and dilapidations to the palace and demesne at Clogher, 1732, 1812, 1816 and 1819, mostly relate to the time of Bishop John Porter (whose successor in the see did not want the palace which Porter had built and which therefore passed down in the Porter and Ellison-Macartney family and had its name changed to 'Clogher Park'). Primate Beresford's correspondence about the deposition of Porter's successor as bishop, Percy Jocelyn, in 1822 is subject to an indefinite closure.



Down, Connor and Dromore

The material relating to these dioceses (which were united, disunited, reunited, etc, at various stages in their history) run from 1693 to 1974, and include a considerable run of visitation material, 1693, 1703 and 1811-1868. There are formal documents about bishops of the dioceses, 1812-1970 (with many gaps), and about clergy, 1769 and 1880-1970.

Papers about individual parishes in the dioceses of Down and Connor are as follows: Teckmacrean, alias Glenarm, 1733; Knockbreda, 1733; Ardkeen and Witter, 1761; Lisburn and Blaris, 1775; Ballyphilip, 1780; Loughguile, N.D.; Drummaul, 1816; St Anne's, Belfast, 1818; Drumbeg, 1824; Ardglass and Ballyphilip, 1842; Skerry and Rathcavan, 1848; Derriaghy, 1858; Donoughmore, 1858; Belfast, 1866; Knockbreda, 1867; Groomsport, 1867; Donegore, 1895; and Helen's Bay, 1962.

Papers about individual parishes in the diocese of Dromore are as follows: Magherahamlet and Dromara, 1817, Newry, 1819 and Shankhill, 1870.

In addition, there are five volumes of bound-up originals and some loose papers, 1729-1730, 1751 and 1753-1755, about a lawsuit between the Primate and the Montgomery family over the lands and advowson of Donaghadee, alias Black Abbey, and between the Primate and the Ward family over the advowson of the union of St Andrew's (consisting of the livings of Ballyhalbert, Ballywalter and Inishargy). There is then a gap in the documentation, corresponding presumably to a cessation of litigation, and then some later documents of 1824, 1834-1825, 1841-1844 and 1852 relating to presentations to both Donaghadee and St Andrew's, the disappropriation of both from the primacy, the building and endowment of Carrowdore Church and the endowment of Ballyhalbert and Ballywalter.



Derry and Raphoe

The papers relating to these dioceses in the province of Armagh, which were united in 1834, run from 1690 to 1975. They include formal documents about bishops, 1822-1975 (with many gaps), and about clergy, 1745-1969 (also with many gaps). Visitation returns and related material survive for 1804, 1838, 1850, 1853, 1856, 1865 and 1868.



Meath

Papers about the diocese of Meath, province of Armagh, date from 1399 and 1614-1975. They include formal documents about bishops, 1804-1959 (with many gaps), and about clergy, 1734, 1863 and 1914-1923. There are visitation and related returns for 1693 (also comprising Armagh and Derry), 1850, 1865, 1868, c.1870 and 1974-1975.

A particular feature are papers about the rectory and rectorial glebe of Athboy, Co. Meath, which constituted part of the income of the Archbishops of Armagh, including: the original and a non-contemporary copy of Pope Boniface IX's bull of 1399 confirming the rectory to Primate John Colton, a letter to Primate Beresford about a (charitable?) trust financed out of the income from the rectory, 1851, and deeds about the disappropriation of the rectory from the primacy, 1852-1854.

There are papers about the following individual parishes in the diocese of Meath: Trim (which Primate Ussher was empowered to hold in commendam with the prebend of Castleknock, archdiocese of Dublin), 1614; Trim (which Ussher was empowered to hold in commendam with Finglass, archdiocese of Dublin), 1619; Ratoath, 1690; Kinnegad, 1755; Kilkenny West, 1801; Killucan, 1836; and Castlepollard, 1869.



Visitation papers relating to the archdiocese of Armagh

Visitation and other returns and papers about the clergy of the archdiocese (as distinct from the province) of Armagh run from 1633 to 1973. There are long runs of visitation (including rural deans') returns, 1804, 1822, 1826-1888, 1895 and (with gaps) 1919-1945. There is then a great quantity of reports, returns, etc, of an official but not necessarily a visitation kind, relating to the clergy, parishes and churches of the archdiocese, 1633 and 1694-1964. These include one volume of bound-in original documents, 1694-1708, mainly but not exclusively relating to visitations.

Of particular architectural interest is a set of 80 returns to parliament, 1776-1777, from incumbents of the archdiocese of the state of their parish churches and of sums recently expended on repair and improvement; these vary in detail, but some of them contain a good deal of information for the architectural historian. Other material comprises oath-rolls, c.1700-1959, and other papers about oaths, declarations and nominations, 1817-1973 (with many gaps), and various non-contemporary compilations giving information about clergy of the archdiocese.



Marriage notice books, etc, for the archdiocese of Armagh

This section mainly consists of 86 volumes of marriage notice books, in various series, 1854-1965, some of them arranged by parish and some chronologically. In addition, there is some more miscellaneous material about marriage notices and licences, 1777 and 1868-1971 (with many gaps).



Confirmation papers relating to the archdiocese of Armagh

Apart from some stray letters of 1824 and 1852, these comprise series of confirmation returns, 1921-1947 and 1949-1977, parish by parish and year by year. The returns for 1924-1928 and 1959-1963 are bound into volumes, which overlap slightly with the rest of the material; the rest are loose or stapled into annual folders, in date order within each folder.



Papers about individual parishes in the archdiocese of Armagh

By far the biggest single component of the archive is 55 boxes of papers relating to individual parishes or sub-parish units, alphabetically arranged as DIO/4/32/A-W, with DIO/4/32/Z being a miscellaneous section.

The archive, in the arrangement in which it was received by PRONI, contained numerous original bundles of parochial papers, most of them still in their original wrappers. The parish was therefore taken as the basic unit according to which material should, all things being equal, be arranged. Accordingly, a multitude of loose parochial papers, scattered throughout the archive, were added to these original bundles. Where a document relates to one parish only, it has been placed under that parish, the principal exception being the case of documents which reflect some sort of special activity which applied to the entire diocese – for example the assembling of material, parish by parish, for a return to parliament (see DIO/4/29/3) or the setting up of the Sustentation Fund (see DIO/4/37/4/8). Another exception is that papers which relate only superficially and geographically to a parish, but have no real parochial significance, have been placed elsewhere: cases in point are papers about the Free Schools in Ulster (see DIO/4/8), not all of which were in any case in the archdiocese of Armagh, and deeds concerning property of the archdiocese, or of ecclesiastical bodies within the archdiocese, which happened to have been located in an individual parish. On the other hand, papers about an individual parochial school or deeds concerning glebe lands - in short, anything which has more than geographical relevance to a particular parish - has been placed in the parish bundles.

Among the parish bundles - both the original bundles and the enormous additions made to them - the biggest single type of material is purely formal documents relating to the ordination, institution and resignation of individual clergymen: letters testimonial, si quis, nomination papers, letters dimissory, bene decessits, certificates of the oath and declaration having been subscribed, applications for licenses to be non-resident, etc. Some of these clutches of formal documents relate to clergymen transferring from one parish within the archdiocese to another, and in all such cases the documents have been filed under the parishes to which the clergymen are moving.

The remaining papers, which really contain relevant information about the parish, and which therefore belong in the parish bundle proper, are of a very varied nature and content – petitions and memorials from individual clergymen about their income, dilapidations to their houses, etc; hard-luck stories about individual parishioners; visitation papers relating to one parish only; papers about marriage, confirmation, etc, on the same basis; legal case papers, particularly concerning allegations against individual clergymen; deeds in connection with the extensions of churches, the building of cemeteries, etc; and faculties authorising a wide variety of things.

The great complication in this section of the papers is the changes in parish units effected by unions and disunions of parishes, creations of perpetual curacies, etc. This problem has been dealt with as satisfactorily as possible, by means of cross-referencing. The basis of the cross-referencing is as follows: where Parish A is stated to have been united to Parish B at a certain date, that means that the documentation for Parish A, beyond that date, will be found under Parish B; and vice versa if it had been stated that Parish B was united to, or held with, Parish A. The parishes have been grouped according to the system adopted by Canon J.B. Leslie in his *Armagh Clergy and Parishes* (Dundalk, 1911). There is an update to Leslie bringing the work up to 1948. Thereafter, commonsense and guesswork have been resorted to.

A point which needs to be stressed is the large and, perhaps, slightly unexpected geographical spread of the archdiocese. It covered the entire counties of Armagh and Louth and, less obviously, extended over almost the whole south-eastern half of Co. Tyrone and a considerable part of south-western Derry. Parishes, it should also be remembered, often straddled county boundaries.

What now follows is a summary description of the parish material, arranged parish by parish, in alphabetical order. In almost all cases, this begins with a schedule of documents relating to the parish at the time of Disestablishment, and the presence of such a schedule will be taken as read (even when in fact it is missing). It will also be taken as read that in each parish there will be a considerable quantity of formal documents relating to the nomination, institution, resignation, etc, of the clergy of the parish. The descriptions which follow will therefore concentrate on the less formal and the unexpected.

At the end of each parish sub-section, a list of cross-references to that parish elsewhere in the archive is given, although in most cases the documents to which the cross-references are made are not parochial in character.



Acton, Co. Armagh

The documents relating to this parish run from 1788 to 1963 (with many gaps). There are documents and a plan, August-October 1860, relating to alterations to the church.

Aghalow, near Caledon, Co. Tyrone

The documents relating to this parish date from 1679, 1700 and 1732-c.1870 (with many gaps). They include petitions of 1700 from the inhabitants of Caledon and the parishioners of Aghalow and Carnteel for the removal of the Archdeacon of Armagh, Michael Hewetson, because of his failure to perform all his duties, his abusive sermons and his drunkenness; together with his formal resignation. There are also c.1870 schedules of documents relating to tithes, 1700-1867, and buildings, 1740-1844.



Altadesert (Pomeroy), Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1840 to 1949 (with many gaps). There are letters, faculties and a plan, 1861-1862, relating to alterations to the church.

Annaghmore, near Killyman, Cos Armagh and Tyrone

The documents run from 1854 to 1963 (with many gaps).

Arboe, near Cookstown, Cos Tyrone and Londonderry

The documents date from 1710 and from 1768-1959 (with many gaps). They include an agreement for the building of a church, 1710.

Ardee, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1782 to 1957 (with many gaps). There are papers about alterations to the church, including re-pewing, 1841, and about further alterations and the insertion of a stained-glass window, 1866. One not strictly parochial document is a report of 1912 by the Rev. A.L. Ford on Rokeby Hall, Dunleer, the house in the parish of Ardee built by Francis Johnston for Primate Robinson in c.1790.



Ardtree, near Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry, with an overspill into Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1839 to 1974 (with many gaps), and include papers about the church and its state of repair, 1739 and 1797, including a plan of proposed alterations, 1856.

Armagh

The papers date from 1720 and from 1768-1966 (with many gaps). They include an Armagh parish 'funeral book', 1820-1831, and formal documents, letters and a plan relating to alterations to St Mark's Church, 1866.

Armagh Tithes

These papers comprise volumes and loose accounts, 1823-1824, 1831-1838 and N.D., for the parish of Armagh, including the districts of Armaghbreague, Aughavilly, Ballymoyer, Eglish, Kildarton, Killylea and Lisnadill, which were perpetual curacies within Armagh parish and were later constituted parishes in their own rights. There are also a few other, more miscellaneous tithe-related papers, 1831-1839, 1869 and N.D.

Armaghbreague, Keady, Co. Armagh

The papers relating to this parish run from 1829 to 1884 (with many gaps).

Aughavilly, near Armagh, Co. Armagh

The papers run from 1841 to 1957 (with many gaps), and include correspondence, a petition, a citation and a plan, all relating to alterations to the church, 1868-1869.



Balleer, Co. Armagh

The papers run from 1824 to 1863 (with many gaps).

Ballinderry, near Magherafelt, Cos Londonderry and Tyrone

The papers run from 1733 to 1970 (with many gaps).

Ballyclog (Cookstown), Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1805 to 1908 (with many gaps), and include a faculty and related documents of c.1805 relating to the building of a new church, and papers about Lord Castle Stewart's wish to repair and enlarge the family vault in Ballyclog graveyard, 1872.

Ballyeglish, Co. Tyrone

These papers run from 1865 to 1901 (with many gaps).



Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1829 to 1917 (with many gaps), and include a letter of March 1837 to George Scott, Provincial Registrar of Armagh, about pews in the church.

Ballymakenny, near Drogheda, Co. Louth

The papers date from 1785, 1791 and 1859-1921 (with many gaps).

Ballymascanlan, Co. Louth

The papers run from 1771 to 1971 (with many gaps).

Ballymore (Tanderagee), Co. Armagh

The papers date from 1732 and 1845-1973 (with many gaps), and include papers of 1845 about the 'want of accommodation in the parish church'.



Ballymoyer, near Newry, Co. Armagh

The papers date from 1795 and 1822-1932 (with many gaps), and include papers about tithes, 1834 and 1837, and correspondence and a plan about repairs and alterations to the church, 1863-1865.

Baronstown, near Dundalk, Co. Louth

The papers date from 1776-1784 and 1816-1885 (with many gaps), and include an estimate for the building of a glebe house.

Beaulieu, near Drogheda, Co. Louth

The papers date from 1772, 1826-1827, 1831 and 1870-1872.

Brackaville (Donaghendry), Co. Tyrone

The papers date from 1840-1953 (with many gaps).



Brantry, Co. Tyrone

The papers date from 1844-1964 (with many gaps).

Caledon, Co. Tyrone

The papers date from 1774, 1778 and 1806-1968 (with many gaps).

Camlough, near Newry, Co. Armagh

The papers date from 1773, 1785 and 1817-1968 (with many gaps), and include deeds and related papers of 1866-1868, among them a ground plan, about the building and consecration of the new church.

Carlingford, Co. Louth

The papers run from 1793 to 1955 (with many gaps), and include correspondence, etc, of 1911-1921 about the new church of Greenore.

Carnteel, between Clogher and Dungannon, Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1842 to 1971 (with many gaps).



Castletown, near Dundalk, Co. Louth

There is only one document, which relates to the advowson, c.1770.

Charlemont, Co. Armagh

The papers run from 1830 to 1925 (with many gaps), and some of them, dated 1862, relate to alterations to the church and include specifications and a plan.

Charlestown, near Ardee, Co. Louth

The papers date from 1706 and 1789-1920 (with many gaps), and include a petition of 1706 from the Rev. Jonathan Ball, Vicar of Charlestown, about the disrepair of the church.

Clare, near Tanderagee, Co. Armagh

The papers run from 1840 to 1852 and there is a schedule of formal documents dated c.1870. Correspondence, specifications, plans, etc, of 1840-1843 and 1845 relate to a new church.

Clogherny, near Fintona, Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1745 to 1967 (with many gaps), and include an unofficial census of the parish, 1851-1852, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1778-1866.



Clonfeacle, near Moy, Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1746 to 1964 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1742-1866, an epitome of a letter on irrigation addressed to the Rt Hon. Isaac Corry, c.1799-1804, by the incumbent, the Rev. Dr William Richardson, a memorial and estimates relating to the roof of the glebe house, 1802-1803, and an early-19th century memorial from the parishioners about a sum of money granted by the Board of First Fruits for a chapel of ease.



Clonkeen (Charlestown), Co. Louth

The paper date from 1735 and 1820-1885 (with many gaps), and there is a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings during the period 1769.

Clonmore (Dunany), Co. Louth

The papers date from 1731 and 1834-1873 (with many gaps), and include a draft certificate relating to dilapidations to the glebe house, with related correspondence, 1860, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1778-1858.

Clonoe, near Dungannon, Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1797 to 1919 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1809-1842.



Collon, Co. Louth

The papers run from 1765 to 1923 (with many gaps), and include a deed of conveyance from the Board of First Fruits to the Rev. Dr Thomas Foster, 1765, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1782-1845.

Cooley (Sixmilecross), Co Tyrone

The documents run from 1836 to 1872 (with gaps) and include papers about building a new church at Dunmoyle.

Creggan (Newtownhamilton), Co. Armagh

The papers date from 1734-1735, 1773 and 1790-1950 (with many gaps), and include certificates of Bernard Murphy's conformity to the Church of Ireland, 1734-1735, plans and valuations relating to alterations to the church, 1851-1852, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1732-1852.

Derrygortreavy (Clonfeacle), Co. Tyrone

The papers date from 1734 and 1819-1915 (with many gaps), and include correspondence and accounts of 1858 about repairs to the church and a proposed new arrangement of the pews.



Derryloran, near Cookstown, Cos Londonderry and Tyrone

The papers run from 1771 to 1974 (with many gaps), and include a memorial from the Rev. William Mauleverer about the building of houses on the glebe land, 1817, and correspondence of 1854 and 1859 about alterations to the parish church.

Derrynoose (Tynan), Co. Armagh

The papers date from 1727 and 1780-1965 (with many gaps), and include a certificate of Edward Coyn's conformity to the Church of Ireland, 1727, and correspondence of May-June 1856 between the Rev. Cosby Mangan and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners about repairs to the interior of the church.

Derver (Dromiskin), Co. Louth

The documents are few and date from 1831, 1852, 1866-1867, c.1870 and 1873.

Desertcreat, near Cookstown, Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1745 to 1920 (with many gaps), and include a consent from the Board of Trinity College, Dublin, to the Rev. James Lowry to improve the rectory, 1767.



Desertlyn, near Moneymore, Co. Londonderry

The documents run from 1767 to 1955 (with many gaps). They include petitions and other documents about changing the site of the church and building a new one, 1767 and 1771.

The Diamond, near Loughgall, Co. Armagh

The documents run from c.1865 to 1907 (with gaps), including what appear to be papers relating to the building of a new church, c.1865 and 1867.

Donaghendry, between Dungannon and Cookstown, Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1780 to 1947 (with many gaps), and include correspondence and other papers about the disrepair of the glebe house in the period 1862-1871, when the parish was under sequestration to repay the debts of the Rector, the Rev. James Gerahty.

Donaghmore (Castlecaulfeild), Co. Tyrone

The documents date from 1736 and from 1775-1961 (with many gaps), and include a grant in perpetuity of part of the glebe land of Donaghmore to the 'school master of English', 1736, an account of the expenses of Castlecaulfeild school between 1772 and 1776, correspondence and a memorial relating to the alteration and enlargement of the church, 1860, etc.

Donaghmore Upper

The documents date from 1842 to 1928 (with many gaps), and include a plan, a specification and other papers about alterations to the church, 1867.



Drogheda (St Peter's)

The documents date from 1710, 1735, 1740, 1775 and 1799-1964 (with many gaps), and include a certificate of Anthony Walsh's conformity to the Church of Ireland, together with a schedule of penances, 1740, a commission to consecrate the new church of St Peter's, 1829, and correspondence, a ground plan and other papers relating to alterations to the church, 1865.

Drogheda (St Mark's)

The documents, which are few (because this was short-lived perpetual curacy), are dated 1827, 1829, 1831, 1856, c.1870 and 1872.

Dromshallon (Dunany), Co. Louth

There is only one document, dated 1822.

Dromiskin, near Dundalk, Co. Louth

The documents date from 1727, 1752, 1765 and 1801-1905 (with many gaps), and include a certificate of Owen McKitrick's conformity to the Church of Ireland, 1727, a paper about the building of a glebe house and office, 1802, and papers about the building and consecrating of a new church, 1821-1833.

Drumbanagher, near Newry, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1948 to 1952 (with many gaps).



Drumcar, near Dunleer, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1840 to 1963 (with many gaps) and include deeds and papers about the building and consecration of the church 1840 and 1845.

Drumcree, near Portadown, Co. Armagh

The papers date from 1775-1776 and 1804-1961 (with many gaps).

Drumglass, near Dungannon, Co. Tyrone

The papers date from 1754, 1773 and 1807-1973, and include papers of 1807 about a Quaker meeting house in Dungannon which apparently did not have the official sanction of the Society of Friends.

Drumnakilly, near Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone

The papers date from 1851 to 1943 (with many gaps) and are almost entirely formal.

Dunany Union, Co. Louth

The papers date from 1700, 1729, 1767, 1794 and 1813-1923 (with many gaps), and include papers of 1835 and 1840-1841 about the Rev. John Jones's neglect of the parish and glebe house.



Dunbin, near Dundalk, Co. Louth

The papers are dated late 17th century, 1784-1785, 1791, 1809, 1832-1834 and c.1870.

Dundalk

The papers date from 1754, 1783, 1803 and 1814-1962 (with many gaps), and include an estimate of costs of alterations to the church, 1815, with other papers on the same subject, 1861.

Dunleer, Co. Louth

The documents date from 1682, 1712, 1727, 1783 and 1789-1871 (with many gaps), and include a number of legal papers about the inappropriate rectory of Drumcar and the advowson of Dunleer, 1727, 1783 and 1839.

Eglish, near Armagh, Co. Armagh

The documents date from 1736-1737 and 1821-1963 (with many gaps), and include an affidavit of 1821 by Daniel Heynes that he has spent £333 on the erection of a new church and tower, pursuant to contract.

Errigle Keerogue (Ballygawley), Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1824 to 1961 (with many gaps).



Faughart, near Ballymascanlan, Co. Louth

The documents date from 1775 and 1815-1881 (with many gaps).

Forkhill, on the Co. Armagh side of the Armagh/Louth boundary

The document run from 1767 to 1913 (with many gaps), and include papers about alterations to the church, 1859, and repairs to the glebe, 1860, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1771-1861.

Grange, near Armagh

The documents run from 1776 to 1952 (with many gaps), and include the will of Jane Jeffreys of the parish of Grange, 1835 and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1772-1856.

Heynestown, near Dromiskin, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1790 to 1975 (with many gaps), including a bond for the performance of a contract for building a church, 1826, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1826-1848.



Jonesborough, near Forkhill, Co. Armagh

The documents date from 1760, [1785?] and 1798-1916 (with many gaps), and include a petition and memorial of the Protestant parishioners to the Bishop of Dromore, complaining that for several years the parish has been without any resident curate, [1785?], papers about the building and enlargement of the glebe house, 1815 and 1863 respectively, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents about buildings over the period 1779-1861.

Keady, Co. Armagh

The documents date from 1782 to 1974 (with many gaps), and include a deed of consecration of a church, 1782, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1773-1845.

Kene (Baronstown), Co. Louth

There are only two documents, both dated 1785.

Kilclooney, near Markethill, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1806 to 1946 (with many gaps), and include building specifications, a plan and related correspondence about the repair and enlargement of the church, 1863, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1807-1867.



Kildarton (Lisnadill), Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1840 to 1921 (with many gaps), and include mainly formal documents about the glebe and glebe house, 1861, 1885 and 1887.

Kildress, near Cookstown, Co. Tyrone

The documents date from 1694 and 1775-1951 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1778-1869.

Killeavy (Camlough), Co. Armagh

The documents date from 1775 and 1826-1894 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1774-1859.

Killeshil, near Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1761 to 1884 (with many gaps) and are mainly formal, but include a memorial from the Rev. Dr William Campbell about the building of a glebe house and offices, 1802.



Killincoole (Louth), Co. Louth

The documents date from 1781, 1807 and 1815-1875 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1734-1867, and plans and other papers about alterations to the church, 1874-1875.

Killylea, near Tynan, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1829 to 1960 (with many gaps), and include faculties for alterations to the church, 1865?

Killyman, near Dungannon, Cos Tyrone and Armagh

The documents date from 1748, 1775 and 1818-1950 (with many gaps), and include information about improvement made to the glebe house, c.1825, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1737-1849.

Kilmore, near Richhill, Co. Armagh

The documents date from 1770, 1785 and 1817-1965 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1733-1870 and information about the new chancel added to the parish church, 1876-1877.



Kilsaran, near Castle Bellingham, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1766 to 1967 (with many gaps), and include memorials from the Rev. Alexander McClintock about the glebe house, 1802.

Lisnadill, near Armagh, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1772 to 1966 (with many gaps), and include formal documents about the building and consecration of a new chapel of ease, 1772 and 1782.

Lissan, near Cookstown, Cos Tyrone and Londonderry

The documents run from 1771 to 1966 (with many gaps), and include memorials from the Rev. John Molesworth Staples requesting a Board of First Fruits loan to build a glebe house (presumably the future Lissan Rectory, designed by John Nash), 1804.

Loughgall, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1769 to 1973 (with many gaps), and include a plan and other papers about the enlargement of the church, 1863.



Loughgilly, near Newry, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1771 to 1971 (with many gaps), and include a memorial from the Rev. Henry Stewart to the Board of First Fruits about the building of a glebe house, 1824, papers about the altering and enlarging of the church, 1861 and 1863, and a copy of a letter of c.1870 from Precentor Alexander Irwin giving the entertaining details of the career of the Rev. Charles Mongan Warburton, a former Rector of Loughgilly and, allegedly, the son of an Irish harper, and his difficult ascent to a bishopric (that of Limerick in 1806).

Louth, between Ardee and Dundalk, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1709 to 1922 (with many gaps).

Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry

The documents date from 1700 and 1786-1974 (with many gaps) and include papers about the new church, 1855 and 1858. The earliest document, dated 1700, is a petition from the Rev. Thomas Lawson against John Tomb, a Dissenting minister who has intruded into Lawson's parish, preaching and performing baptisms and marriages; Lawson requests an order to the justices of the peace to prevent any disturbances which this may cause.

Mansfieldstown, near Ardee, Co. Louth

The documents, which are few, are dated 1804, 1815, 1826, 1843 and c.1870, and include a memorial from the Rev. Henry Bunbury about the building of a new glebe house, 1804.



Meigh, near Camlough, Co. Armagh

The documents, which are few, run from 1830 to 1875 (with some gaps), and include some particulars about the new chapel of ease at Meigh, 1830-1831.

Middletown, on the Armagh/Monaghan boundary

The documents run from 1792 to 1895 (with many gaps).

Milltown, near Portadown, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1840 to 1970 (with many gaps), and refer to a new church of 1840.

Moy, Co. Tyrone

The documents run from 1819 to 1962 (with many gaps), and include building papers of 1866 and 1868-1869.

Moylary (Dunleer), Co. Louth

The documents run from 1840 to 1873 (with many gaps).



Mullaghbrack (Markethill), Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1799 to 1965 (with gaps), and include: correspondence and papers of the committee for conducting the building of the tower of Mullabrack Church, among them plans, estimates, accounts and agreements, 1809-1814; account books for tithe and tithe rent-charge, 1821-1840, N.D.; copies of a memorial from the Rev. Dr Samuel Blacker for a faculty to build a glebe house, and the report of the commission of dilapidations condemning the old house, 1827; and plans, specifications and other papers about alterations to Mullaghbrack Church, 1856.

Mullaglass, near Camlough, Co. Armagh

The few documents there are run from 1872 to 1964 (with many gaps).

Mullavilly, near Armagh, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1810 to 1955 (with many gaps), and include letters, a plan and other papers relating to the repair and improvement of the church, 1852 and 1855.

Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1780 to 1963 (with many gaps), and include papers about the building of a new church, 1866-1868, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1773-1867.



Omeath, near Carlingford, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1838 to 1925, and include specifications and other papers about alterations to the church, 1865, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1838-1865.

Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone

The documents date from 1782, 1786 and 1830-1952 (with many gaps), and include papers about alterations to the church, 1862, papers about the building of a mausoleum for the Lowry family of Pomeroy (or Rockdale?), 1866 and 1869-1870, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1775-1867.

Portadown, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1826 to 1974, and include papers about alterations to the church of St Mark's, 1860.

Rathdrummin (Dunany), near Drogheda, Co. Louth

The few documents there are date from 1776, 1779, 1843-1844 and c.1870.



Richhill, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1837 to 1966 (with many gaps), and include plans, specifications and other papers about alterations to the church, 1860-1861.

St Saviour's, near Richhill

The documents in this parish section run from 1871 to 1962 (with many gaps): the earlier documents will be found under Kilmore.

Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone

The documents date from 1824 and 1876-1975: the earlier documents will be found under Cooley.

Stabannon (Kilsaran), Co. Louth

The few documents are dated 1782, 1793, 1807, 1821, 1828, 1847 and c.1870, the last being a schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1796-1847.

Tamlaght, near Magherafelt, Cos Londonderry and Tyrone

The documents run from 1782 to 1923 (with many gaps), and include a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1782-1856.



Tartaraghan (Portadown), Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1698 to 1965 (with many gaps), and include: a deed of endowment of the parish by Francis Obr, of Clantilew with the tithes of Clantilew Breagh, Eglish, Ballineery, Derrilee, Taghlogue, Derriagh and Derryene, 1698; a petition of the inhabitants of Tartaraghan against the proposal of the Archbishop to annex them to the parish of Loughgall, 1700; a consent by the Hon. James Caulfeild (later 7th Viscount Charlemont), to the composing of Tartaraghan into a parish and the renunciation of his rights to the tithes, and letter from Arthur Brownlow to Caulfeild's father, the 6th Viscount Charlemont, giving his consent to the passing of the act of parliament, both 1709; and deed and counterpart between Eleanor Obr, and the Rev. Alexander Shard, Rector of Tartaraghan, conveying land in Breagh as a site for the church, and deed and counterpart between Edward Obr, of Lisburn, Co. Antrim, and shard, conveying land in Breagh to the parish, both 1710. Also present is a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1773-1849, and papers about alterations to the church, 1890.

Termonfechin, near Drogheda, Co. Louth

The documents date from 1700 and 1786-1880 (with many gaps), and include a letter from Sir Henry Tichborne about the Primate's title to the tithes of Termonfechin, 1700, specifications, a plan and correspondence about alterations to the church, 1862, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1744-1862.



Termonmaguirke, near Omagh, Co. Tyrone

The papers run from 1730 to 1966 (with many gaps), and include a petition to build a new church at Sixmilecross, 1733, a book containing a list of the inhabitants of the parish of 'Temont', 1780, papers about enlarging Termon Church, 1861, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1733-1861.

Tullaniskin (Drumglass), near Dungannon, Co Tyrone

The documents run from 1789 to 1967 (with very many gaps), and include specifications and other papers about alterations to the church, 1864-1865, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1790-1869.

Tullyallen, near Collon, Co. Louth

The documents run from 1811 to 1951 (with many gaps), and include papers about alterations to Mellifont Church, 1857-1858, a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1814-1844, and case papers in a storm-in-a-teacup about a lectern which had on its base engravings 'calculated to accustom average minds to empty form and ornament', 1894.

Tynan, Co. Armagh

The documents run from 1768 to 1975 (with gaps), and include papers about alterations to the church, 1860, and a c.1870 schedule of formal documents relating to buildings over the period 1775-1865.

Woods Chapel (Ardtree), Co. Londonderry

The documents run from 1831 to 1963 (with many gaps), and include plans and related correspondence about the building and consecration of the church, 1862-1863 and 1869-1870.



Title deeds and inquisitions relating to the archdiocese of Armagh

These title deeds and inquisitions are dated 1606-1724, 1770, 1778, 1818 and 1820, and relate to the see lands of the archdiocese of Armagh and the estates of ecclesiastical institutions within the archdiocese, including the Co. Down estate of the Vicars Choral of the Cathedral Church of Armagh. This last was purchased by Primate Thomas Lindsay for the Vicars Choral in the period 1707-1724, the relevant papers being present in this section of the archive. Also present are copies of grants and inquisitions relating to lay landowners with conflicting property and jurisdictional claims to the Archbishops of Armagh, including Walter Bagenal and Sir Toby Caulfeild, 1612.



Leases of the lands of the archdiocese of Armagh, etc



*Hugh Boulter,
Archbishop of Armagh*

These run from 1627 to 1872, and include leases of the Archbishop's estates outside the archdiocese (notably 'Black Abbey in the Ards', Co. Down, 1639). Noteworthy are early 18th-century proposals for leases and leases, which document the dealings of the Archbishops with some of their major 'gentleman' tenants, eg the Stewarts of Killymoon, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, and the Conynghams, later Lenox-Conynghams, of Springhill, Moneymore, Co. Londonderry. Also present is a lease from Primate Hugh Boulter to the Board of Ordnance of premises for a barracks in Armagh, 1736. In addition to the estates of the Archbishop, the leases relate to those of the Vicars Choral, the Governors and Guardians of Primate Robinson's Library, etc. Many of them – and particularly those which come in the form of abstracts of leases, were bound or copied into volumes, and so have become intermingled with other material of less immediate relevance.



Rentals

These are similar in terms both of the estates to which they relate, their covering dates and the mixture of loose documents and bound volumes in which they are preserved, to the foregoing section of 'Leases'. The rentals cover the period 1628-1871. They include a large and celebrated volume called 'A view or an account taken by Thomas Ashe Esq. in anno 1703 ... of the archbishopric of Armagh', and also ten schedules of tenant's names, rents, duties of poultry, etc, 1703-1707. There is also a long and detailed letter of 1800 from Arthur Browne, the Prime Serjeant and, clearly, a legal adviser to the Archbishop, discussing the rental of the see, Primate Robinson's calculation of it at about £8,200 Irish, his charge of £16,320 to his successor for the money Robinson spent on the palace he built, etc.



Largely formal documents relating to the Archbishops of Armagh

These are dated 1431, 1642, 1800, 1822, 1862 and 1872-1977 and consist largely of certificates, patents, commissions, etc, relating to the election and enthronement of Archbishops of Armagh or to the appointment of commissaries to act during a period when an archbishop was temporarily absent. The early item of 1431 is actually an 18th-century copy of a summons to the Archbishop of Armagh to parliament in that year. Formal documents for the period 1938-1939 are particularly numerous, because two Archbishops in succession died in 1938, and there was a clerical error in the certification of one of the ensuing elections.



Papers about the Armagh Cathedral functionaries

These run from 1610 to 1977 and relate to the Dean, the Archdeacon, the Precentor, the Vicars Choral, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, etc (papers relating to the Prebendaries of Mullabrack, Ballymore, Tynan and Loughgall, who constitute part of the chapter, have been filed under those parishes). The papers include a great many formal documents relating to appointments and resignations, and correspondence of successive Archdeacons, Precentors, etc, about cathedral and archdiocesan business, notably correspondence of the Rev. Alexander Irwin, Precentor of Armagh, 1851-1871.

There are papers of 1717-1800 relating to 'The Economy', an endowment for the dean, chapter and cathedral church of Armagh which was based on the Stormanstown estate, Co. Louth, and on sundry bequests. Repairs and alterations to various buildings are also fully documented, including the ex officio houses of the Vicars Choral in Armagh, 1795-1797 and the Deanery House, c.1860. There are indentures of apprenticeship, 1803-1856 with cathedral choir boys, and letters about the dismissal Frederick William Horncastle, an unsatisfactory organist and choir-master, in 1822, and of Robert Scott, an unsatisfactory stipendary chorister in 1826. The compensation paid to cathedral functionaries in 1869-1871, following Disestablishment, is well documented. Finally, there are letters and papers of Primate Lord John George Beresford about a monument in the cathedral to his predecessor, Primate Stuart, 1822, and the restoration of the cathedral, 1836.



Papers about the Registrars

These consist of account books, correspondence and other papers, 1691-1963, about the Registrars of the Consistorial Court of Armagh, later the Provincial and Diocesan Registrars, the duties and emoluments of their office, etc, and include a run of 7 fee books, 1828-1926.



Papers about the Consistorial Court of Armagh

These run from 1732 to 1871, and mainly consist of case papers, precedents and bills of costs relating to cases over probate and administration, doctrine, discipline and matrimonial disputes heard before the Consistorial Court.



Papers about buildings and institutions in and around Armagh

These run from 1686 to 1965, and excluded from them are papers about buildings and institutions which have been previously noticed. They principally relate to the corporation and parliamentary constituency of Armagh City, 1686-1841 and 1867, Armagh Manor Court, 1751-1807 and 1848, the Co. Armagh shrievalty, grand jury, etc, 1815-1853 and 1868, the Armagh Observatory, 1707-1918, and principally the affairs of the Derrynaught estate purchased by Primate Robinson in 1794 as part of its endowment, the Palace and demesne at Armagh, 1766-1777, 1805 and 1862-1864, and Primate Robinson's Library, 1915-1965 (and consisting exclusively of formal documents appointing Librarians).

