

**15 April 1682, Katherine née Boyle Jones, dowager Viscountess Ranelagh to Anthony Dopping, Bishop of Meath**<sup>1</sup> (ARL, Dopping Papers, Volume 1, no.21). Autograph. For the Lord Bishope off [/] Meath [/] My much honored Lord [/] at Dublin. Endorsed: April 15 82 [/] Lady Ranelagh about the Irish translation:.

My Lord

I am senceble I have much more reason to acknowledg your Lordships great favour in answeireing my poore scribles at your most leasare[leisure] time, than to receive any Excuses from you for your not affording them me with more speed [/]

I am very glad your Lordship is affected with the fayleing (where ever it lyes) of the English protestants in not endeavoring to make up to the poore Irish in spiritual advantages what gods Providence has afforded to them of temporal plenty in the native Country of those poore Creatures & that you for your part are resolved with the 1<sup>st</sup> oportunety to free yourselfe from shareing in that guilt which I hope the same god that has wrought you too wil allow you to see the good effects of by his graceous blessing [/]

Sure the statutes your Lordship mentions that were made to take away the Irish language must either provide that the poore natives before they should be executed might be instructed in the language of the English Conquerors Or else they must be supposed to have condemned those poore Irish to a perpetuall Ignorance & silence & therefore since those statutes have not binn executed in the equitable part ^\of/ them towards [f.1v] that poore people it would seeme very unchristian to let them suffer under the severer part of them & since by the neglect of the former part [,] numbers of the natives are grown old in the Custome of speakeing their mothers tounge[tongue] . Its not to be hoped they wil easely at those yeeres be taught the use of ours & it would be therefore un Charitable not to procure them a help by which they may yet come to the knowledg of the way to life eternal [/]

And tho its too sad a truth that their Priests have binn too much indulged by the English the liberty of seduceing them to or hardening them in their Errors & that they have thereby enslaved them to an implicite [?impolite] fayth in their dictates yet stil the truth of god wilbe found more powerful than the subtilest errors & they wil be in a like way to bee delivered from their miserable bondage when they may heare discourses & read bookes that may acquaint them with those truths, than while they are left utterly in the darke to be led by them & their great leader the divil Captive at his wil & since private persons can neither execute nor make Publick laws for their edification & yet may within their owne spheares help forward that Christian worke my brother<sup>2</sup> is resolved by the Grace of god to doe his part to get them the assistance ^\illegible/ the holy Scriptures may give them in their owne language & is now geting an Irish Grammer printed at his owne charge & persueing the translation of the old testament in order to that desierable end in which worke he is very glad god has rayssed him such a helper as your [f.2r] Lordship to whom he presents his humble service & desiered me to present you with these

---

<sup>1</sup> James McGuire, "Dopping, Anthony (1643-97), Church of Ireland bishop of Meath," *Dictionary of Irish Biography* [DIB].

<sup>2</sup> Michael Hunter, "Boyle, Robert (1627-91), natural philosopher," *DIB*.

grounds of the fayth in which he proceeds to carry on this good worke & that god may prosper it in both your hands & in as many more as he shal please to worke to joyne with you therein in the hartty prayer of hir who is with much reallety

My Lord

Your Lordships humble servant & affectionate

Cousen

the 15<sup>th</sup> of

April 82

KRanelagh