

extruxit ac dotavit ; in oppido Mountrath, suo natali solo, Aedem quoque magnificam Deo sacram condidit ; Sodalitates ad erudiendos pauperes pueros ac puellas instituit ac redditibus auxit ; plura alia reliquit pietatis monumenta, pertransiens benefaciendo ; Clero et populo in vita carissimus, altis utriusque suspiriis ac infando dolore in morte flebilis nunquam satis pro meritis defendus. Obiit expectans carnis resurrectionem, Anno aetatis 67, Episcopatus 31, Incarnationis 1814, Mense Julii die 9. R.I.P."

## DR. PHELAN.

The Ballyragget people have a tradition of a Dr. Phelan, a native of their parish, who became a bishop or Archbishop, in Brazil. They say that he was born in Sralee Ho., where his family lived down to about 1770 ; that he studied for the church, at the instance of Father Kavanagh, P.P., who died in 1761 ; that, after ordination, he went on the mission to Brazil, where he subsequently became a Bishop or Archbishop ; and that, at his death, he left a bequest of money to his relatives in Ireland, notice of which was conveyed to them between 1822 and 1828, In addition to this, Mrs. Farrell of Castlemarket, a grand-niece of Dr. Phelan, and born about 1810, stated to the writer that she had heard from her mother and others, that letters sent to him from Ireland were directed to " Rio Janeiro, St. Catherine's Island." It would, therefore, seem that his See was Rio Janeiro, which, at present, at least, is an Archbishopric. The Episcopal succession in Brazil, if available, would, doubtless, throw light on the subject.

The writer believes that this Dr. Phelan is identical with the Rev. John Phelan, most probably of Sralee Ho., who was ordained at Mr. Richard Hoyne's house, in Garrychreen, by Dr. Burke, Bishop of Ossory, Feb. 18th, 1769, and who makes no appearance afterwards on the Ossory mission.

Daniel Phelan, of " Shrleigh," farmer, made his will July 25th, 1768, and bequeathed £40 to his son, John Phelan, and the rest of his means to his (testator's) wife, Elizabeth, and their other children.<sup>1</sup>

PATRICK KELLY, BISHOP OF RICHMOND, 1820-22 ; BISHOP OF WATERFORD  
AND LISMORE, 1822-1829.

See Vol. I., pp. 272-74.

PATRICK PHELAN, COADJUTOR-BISHOP OF KINGSTON, CANADA, 1843-57 ;  
BISHOP OF SAME SEE, 1857-57.

Dr. Phelan was born in Conahy Rocks, parish of Conahy, in January or February, 1795. His parents, who were of the farming class, were Joseph Phelan

<sup>1</sup> Ossory Wills, Record Office, Dublin.



and Catherine Brennan, the latter a native of Byrnesgrove. The future Bishop learned the first rudiments of the Classics from Father Hosey, Administrator of Ballyragget parish (which formerly included Conahy). He next studied at a Latin school in Freshford; and was sent thence to the Castlemarket Academy, Ballyragget, in 1816. He continued four years in Castlemarket, till the Academy there was closed in 1820. The straitened circumstances of his mother, now a widow, leaving little hopes of his being able to further prosecute his studies, he found it necessary for a time, at least, to give up all idea of the ecclesiastical state, to which he aspired; and turning his talents and education to account, he became tutor to the children of a Catholic gentleman, in, or very near, Carrick-on-Suir.

While at Carrick-on-Suir he had a vision one night, as he slept, in which he saw the children in an American town dying without Baptism; at the same time it was intimated to him that a certain ship would leave an Irish port on a certain day for America, that he should take passage by that ship, and that he should become a priest in America, to save the souls that were perishing there. Next morning at breakfast he told all the particulars of his vision to his employer, who probably took but little notice of the matter. Later on that morning, however, the gentleman was handed his daily paper, and looking over the advertisements, the first item to catch his eye was one to the effect that a ship bearing the name of that just mentioned by his tutor, would sail for America on the day, and from the port, indicated in the vision. He at once called in the tutor and showed him the advertisement.

Patrick Phelan, interpreting the vision as a manifestation of God's will in his regard, at once determined to respond to the call. He settled his account with his employer, who gave him what was due to him, and more besides, and returned to his mother's house in Conahy to make the few preparations necessary for his intended voyage. This was in the year 1821. He landed in Boston in the same year, and introduced himself to the Bishop, Dr. Cheverus, who adopted him for his Diocese and, after three months, sent him to the ecclesiastical Seminary in Montreal. Having finished his studies, he was ordained for his own Diocese by the Bishop of Montreal, Monsignor Lartigue, with the consent of the Bishop of Boston, on the 26th Sept., 1825; and on the 21st of the following November he left the ranks of the secular clergy and joined the Sulpician Order.

For the next sixteen years he laboured with the greatest fruit among the Irish of Montreal, who, till he came amongst them, had no priest of their own nationality. In 1842 he was appointed to take charge of the mission in Bytown, now Ottawa, but his stay there was short. By Brief of Feb. 20th, 1843, he was appointed Coadjutor *cum jure successionis* to Dr. Gaulin, Bishop of Kingston; and he was consecrated at Montreal, the 20th of May following. The first act



of his Episcopate was the laying of the foundation stone of Kingston Cathedral.

"The benefits which he rendered to education during his episcopate were numerous. He promoted and gave life to several institutions outside Kingston, and in the city itself there were established the Regiopolis College and the Christian Brothers' School, and the Congregational Convent received material encouragement at his hands. An incident worth relating, as illustrative of the affection that the people bore him, is one which happened at the time the Christian Brothers' School was founded. It appears that the worthy Brothers had no proper place to carry on their teaching, and, in consequence, their Provincial had sent a letter to the Bishop, telling him that unless a suitable place would be provided, the Brothers would be withdrawn at once. This would have been a death blow to Bishop Phelan, who greatly esteemed the Brothers, and he was determined that they should not leave the town. Going, therefore, into the pulpit, he read out the letter to the congregation, and told them that if they would let the Brothers go, they would also have to let him go, for he would not stay without the Brothers in the town. They became alarmed and held a meeting that afternoon, and out of the subscriptions, twenty-six of the largest were alone enough to build the free Brothers' School which is now erected at Kingston.

"He always made powerful appeals on behalf of charitable purposes, appeals which were responded liberally to, and which had to be often made, as there were many distressing occasions to call them forth—especially the famine of 1847 in Ireland, the fire in Quebec in 1845, and the fire in Montreal in 1852; he also established charitable societies and institutions, the Hotel Dieu Hospital and Orphan Asylum in Kingston having been founded by him. Yet whenever he had to ask on his own behalf, he did so very reluctantly, and was hardly able to express his wants, while the fact is, that he was known to have given to the poor the very last copper he had in the world.

"The number of churches which were built during the thirteen years he was Bishop, must be near thirty; the number of priests he ordained, nineteen; and the people he confirmed reached the total of 11,520. We have already given a sketch of his labours, but from the materials at command, it gives but a faint idea of his whole work, which, at this distance of time, cannot be appreciated to its full extent.

"On the 8th May, 1857, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gaulin having died, Bishop Phelan, his Coadjutor, became Bishop of Kingston by right of succession, but in less than one month afterwards, on the 6th of June, he was taken away from this life, and the people of Kingston had to mourn the loss of their saintly Bishop, of him who was at all times a warm friend to all, condescending and kind, as well as an active labourer in the cause of religion, an eloquent preacher, a citizen beloved by his own people and by those who were separated from him in creed, a man in dignity, a child in humility, and worthy of the position which he held as a prince of the Church."<sup>1</sup>

MOST REV. THOMAS FRANCIS HENDRICKEN, FIRST BISHOP OF PROVIDENCE,  
U.S.A., 1872-86.

The following sketch of Dr. Hendricken's life is taken from the *Catholic Family Annual*, of 1887:

"Right Rev. Thomas Francis Hendricken, D.D., late Bishop of the Diocese of Providence, R.I., was born May 5, 1827, in the City of Kilkenny, Ireland. His early education was obtained at the schools of his native city, and afterwards at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. At the age of twenty Mr. Hendricken entered the celebrated College of Maynooth [for Humanity, Aug. 27th, 1847], having previously passed the strict entrance examination required by the faculty of that institution. We have learned, from those who knew Mr. Hendricken at this time, of his particular attraction for the study of English literature. He was an earnest reader during his entire life, and those who are familiar with his letters and other writings have always remarked the clear and forcible expression, together with the easy flow of language, which they contain.

"When Right Rev. Bishop O'Reilly, of Hartford, visited Ireland, about the year 1853, the young levite generously offered himself among others as a candidate for the American mission. He was

<sup>1</sup> From a sketch of Bishop Phelan in an American Newspaper of the year 1886.