

Dobner turned up among the records of the Emperor Charles's time in the Metropolitan chapter library at Prague. It may be gathered from the letter that some intimation had been intimated, on the part of higher ecclesiastical authorities, of sending Marignolli to Ireland in connexion with questions then in debate with the writer. The wrath of the latter seems to have been sorely stirred at this intimation, and he turns up the lawn sleeves and brandishes the shillelagh in the following style of energetic metaphor. We can hardly read the letter without a feeling that it ought to have been dated from Tuam rather than Armagh. But the writer turns out to have been one who had high claims to respect.<sup>1</sup>

“Reverend Father and very dear Friend!

“What those honourable gentlemen — De —, and — De — have told of your behaviour is anything but fitting in a man of your grey hairs and superior pretensions. And the message which your Reverence sent me by them is a poor sample of your prudence.

“By the help of the Lord and the right that was on my side did not I exterminate ———, the flower of your Order? Have not I bate him already in fair fight, and am I going to stand in fear of any of the rest of ye? Sure nothing is deficient in the present conjuncture, but that the conquering hero should receive the prize, and that by the blessing of God the crown of victory should descend to decorate his troyumphant brows!

“A rich recompense must abide the pen which eradicated the briars and thorns from the garden of Holy Church, which sent the ugly faction of error to the right-about, and cleared the street for Catholic Truth to walk in!

“I am not afraid of your Reverence's coming. 'Tis not likely that the prospect of having you for antagonist would frighten *me*; me, who tore to rags the sophistries of the Englishmen, Okkam<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Some local colour has seemed necessary to do justice to this letter in translation, so I subjoin the latter part as a sample of the original:—  
“... Veniat igitur inveteratus ille Bisanensis Episcopus, Veniat! (Quis ille qui se Apostolum Orientis in curiâ Cæsaris ampullose denominat?) ut experiatur in opera quid somnia sua prodesse valeant. Nam si canum latrantium juventuti intersit vincula nostræ provisionis industria, facile quidem palpitantem senio molossum ligare curabimus, cui jam neque vocis claritas, neque scientiæ habilitas suffragantur.”

<sup>2</sup> William Ockham or Occam, an English Franciscan, very eminent