

**BISHOP DOYLE "J.K.L.":  
A BIOGRAPHICAL AND  
HISTORICAL STUDY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649105274

Bishop Doyle "J.K.L.": a biographical and historical study by Michael MacDonagh

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Cover @ 2017

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**MICHAEL MACDONAGH**

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The New Irish Library

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BISHOP DOYLE

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*THE NEW IRISH LIBRARY.*

EDITED BY

Sir CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY, K.C.M.G.

ASSISTANT EDITORS :

DOUGLAS HYDE, LL.D. |  
National Literary Society,  
+ College Green,  
DUBLIN.

R. BARRY O'BRIEN,  
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Adelphi Terrace,  
LONDON, W.C.

# BISHOP DOYLE

"J. K. L."

A Biographical and Historical Study

BY

MICHAEL MACDONAGH

REGIS  
BIBL. MAJ.  
COLLEGE

"I am a Churchman, but without ambition; a Catholic, but without bigotry; an Irishman, hating with my whole soul the oppression of my country; but my desire is to heal her wounds, not to aggravate her sufferings. What I desire above all is her freedom, and the union of her people. I would free religion from the slavery of the State; and let her ministers receive their hire from those for whom they labour."—Dr. DOYLE.

London  
T. FISHER UNWIN  
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

Dublin  
SEALY, BRYERS & WALKER  
MIDDLE ABBRY STREET

MDCCCXCVI

63662







## PREFACE.



**I**N *Young Ireland* there is an interesting chapter entitled "An Editor's Room," in which Sir Charles Gavan Duffy (the editor of this series), describing the literary projects of the brilliant young writers whom he had gathered around him in *The Nation* office, just half a century ago, enumerates the volumes—biographical, historical and literary—they had intended to contribute to "The Irish Library," of which he was also the conductor. One

of the books was a memoir of Bishop Doyle. Daniel Owen Maddyn, author of *Ireland and its Rulers*, and *The Age of Pitt and Fox*, proposed to write the memoir. "Of all modern Irishmen," he said, "I think Dr. Doyle the most admirable—a far greater nature, though not a greater man, than O'Connell." But the editor of "The Irish Library" did not give Maddyn the commission. "The life of a Catholic bishop by a writer who had been, and had ceased to be, a Catholic, would be an awkward experiment," he thought. Finally, John O'Hagan—then a young member of the Irish Bar, but distinguished in recent years as Mr. Justice O'Hagan, the first President of the Land Commission Court under the Land Act of 1881—undertook to write the memoir. But the book was never completed. Unhappily, some of the literary schemes of the Young Irelanders were unfinished when their political movement ended, in 1848, in an abortive insurrection.

But the great ecclesiastic has not been till now without a biographer. Mr. W. J. FitzPatrick, LL.D., M.R.I.A., whose death early this year was a sad loss to Irish biographical literature, published in the 'Sixties *The Life, Times, and Correspondence of the Right Rev. Dr. Doyle*, in two volumes, to which I am indebted for the chief facts of the Bishop's life, and for his letters to politicians and private friends that I have given in this study. I may add that I wrote to Mr. FitzPatrick for permission to avail myself of the mass of information about Dr. Doyle which he had collected with patient and laborious research, extended over several years. He willingly acceded to my request, and sent me, besides, kindly and encouraging wishes that my undertaking might be crowned with success. I have also derived the greatest assistance in the writing of this book from the reports in "Hansard" of the debates on Irish questions in the House of Commons during the first half of the century, and from the Blue Books contain-