

**DIURNAL OF THE RIGHT REV.
JOHN ENGLAND, D.D.: FIRST
BISHOP OF CHARLESTON,
S.C. FROM 1820 TO 1823**

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Diurnal of the Right Rev. John England, D.D.: First Bishop of Charleston, S.C. from 1820 to 1823
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ANONYMOUS

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FIRST BISHOP OF CHARLESTON, S. C., FROM 1820 TO 1823.

The following pages contain the Journal, or Diurnal, of Bishop England, which he kept during the first three years of his episcopate, from August 5, 1820, to December 5, 1823.

The original of the paper is preserved at Georgetown College, D. C., where it was deposited in 1891 by Rev. John W. Murphy, Rector of the Church of St. Dominic, and Vicar General of the diocese, of Portland, Maine, as appears from the attestation, sealed and dated December 4th, of that year, which was attached by the said Father to the original. It reads as follows: "I brought this manuscript from Cork [Ireland] which I visited in 1881. I found it in a convent where a sister of Bishop England's had lived.

"For careful preservation I now give it to the president of Georgetown College, the Rev. J. H. Richards, S.J."

For the biography of the Right Rev. Bishop England, the reader is referred especially to vol. III, pp. 580-595, of the "History of the Catholic Church," by John Gilmary Shea. (New York: 1890.) Between pages 582-583 is a portrait of the Bishop and a facsimile of his signature.

Villanova College, Pa., Feb. 25, 1895.

FR. THOMAS C. MIDDLETON, O.S.A.

DIURNAL OF BISHOP ENGLAND.

[PAGE 1*]

1820.

An account of the erection of the Bishopric of Charleston and the appointment of one to be Bishop thereof, together with the acts therein—

† JOHN ENGLAND, *Bishop of Charleston.*

* The paging in the body of the text corresponds to the paging in the original.—T. C. M.

Doctor Everard, Archbishop of Mitylene, Coadjutor to the most Reverend Doctor Bray, Archbishop of Cashel, and the Right Revd. Doctors, Coppinger of Cloyne & Ross, Sughrue, of Ardfert & Aghadoe (Kerry), and Touhy, of Limerick.

September 22nd I gave Tonsure, minor orders & subdeaconship to Denis Corkery and Timothy McCarthy, who had got Exeats from the Bishop of Cork, and been [Page 3] accepted by me for the Diocese of Charleston, and Deaconship to John Hallanna, and Alexander Mahony, of the Diocese of Cork, with the leave of the Bishop of Cork, in the Chapel of the North Presentation Convent in Cork, of which my sister Mary was Superioress.

Sep. 23d (my birth day 34 years old) I gave Deaconship to the aforesaid Denis Corkery and Timothy McCarthy and Priesthood to the aforesaid John Hallanan, and Alexander Mahony, and also to William Connor, and James Daly, of the Diocese of Cork, in the Chapel of the Ursuline Convent in that city.

Sep. 24th I gave Priesthood to the aforesaid Denis Corkery and Timothy McCarthy of the Diocese of Charleston, in the said Chapel of the Ursuline Convent.

On this day I wrote to the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda stating my consecration, and my intention of speedily proceeding to America, and requesting extraordinary powers for the peculiar circumstances of my See.

October 1st I wrote to the Archbishop of Baltimore (Mareschal) informing him of my consecration, and my intention of proceeding immediately to America, I had also written previously to the Clergy of Charleston, renewing their jurisdiction until one month after my arrival.

October the 10th I left (my native city) Cork in the [Page 4] afternoon accompanied by my sister Joanna, who gave me £300 to enable me to proceed, and my brother the Reverend Thomas R. England, the Revd. Thomas O'Keeffe, my brother Edward & my brother-in-law Michael Joseph Barry, and came to Fermoy. That evening, my Mother was so affected at my departure as not to

be able to leave her bed, my Father had been buried nearly eight years, my brother Michael was living in Bandon, my Sister Anne was married to M. J. Barry, and had three children. On the day of my consecration I had also Baptized a Son for my brother Edward, which was his first child and was called by my name.

October 11th I having many applications from Priests and candidates for places on the American mission, I appointed my brother the Revd. Thomas R. England and the Revd. Thomas O'Keeffe, my Vicars General, for the purpose principally of selecting such of those as I may afterwards want, and if necessary having them ordained. This day was the anniversary (12 years) of my ordination to Priesthood. On this day I parted from my family to go whither I thought God had called me, but whither I had no other desire to go. Should this be read by a stranger, let him pardon that weakness of our common nature, which then affected me, and does now after the lapse of three months.

[Page 5] October 14. I dined in the College of Carlow, where I had been educated. After having had the happiness of saying Mass in the morning for the Students, from whom I received a flattering address in the Evening, being the first student in that house who had the honor of Episcopal Consecration.

October 22nd. After having stopped a few days in Dublin, and visited my friend Doctor Crotty, President of Maynooth College, I embarked in Belfast, where I had arrived on the night of the 19th on board the ship Thomas Gelston, burthen 450 Tons per register, and set sail in the Evening accompanied by my dear sister Joanna and the Revd. Denis Corkery.

October 25th. After a severe gale of a night and a part of a day, we put into Milford Haven, where we were detained by severe weather until the 31st, when we again set sail.

December 26. Found soundings in 35 fathom's water, and on the next day saw the Hunting Islands on the coast

of South Carolina, after a very tedious and unpleasant voyage. On the evening of the 27th came to anchor off Charleston bar, and on the 28th crossed it, and worked up the channel, and came to anchor in the Evening.

December 30th. Came on shore in Charleston, [Page 6] saw the Reverend Benedict J. Fenwick S.O.J's, who was Vicar General of the Archbishop of Baltimore, who exhibited to me his papers. I gave him my Bulls and Certificates, received the resignation of his authority, and renewed his faculties of Vicar General for me, as Bishop of Charleston, which he accepted—Confirmed their jurisdiction for the Revd. Simon Felix Gallagher, the Revd. Robert Browne, and the Revd. Denis Corkery, saw the Trustees of the Church &c.

December 31st. Being Sunday I had the happiness of celebrating Mass, took possession of the Church, had my Bulls published therein, and preached.

January 1st 1821. Again preached in the Church, and upon enquiry found there was a congregation in the City of Savannah (Georgia) which had been deserted. I prepared a Pastoral letter to be published on the next Sunday, and took into consideration the propriety of having a Priest at Savannah.

January 3d. Wrote and dispatched letters of Communion to the Most Revd. Ambrose Mareschall, Archbishop of Baltimore, the Right Reverend Doctors Chevreux, Bishop of Boston, Conolly, Bishop of New York, Conwell, Bishop of Philadelphia, Kelly, Bishop of Richmond, Flaget, Bishop of Bardstown, and Du Bourg, Bishop of St. Louis, and commissioned the Revd. B. J. Fenwick to transmit a copy of my Bull and Certificate to the Archbishop of Baltimore.

[Page 7] January 7th. I preached again in the Church of Charleston, and had a communication with the Vestry.

January 8th. I determined on visiting the cities of Savannah and Augusta and the Church of Warrenston in Georgia and Columbia in South Carolina, and also wrote

to several Catholics in various parts of my Diocese, sending also in all quarters copies of the Pastoral letter, which I had published.

January 11th. Married Doctor James McDonnell to Miss Elizabeth Ryan in presence of both their mothers and several other witnesses.

January 14. Gave notice of Confirmation in the Church of Charleston on February 18th.

15th. Appointed by sealed writing Revd. B. J. Fenwick my Vicar General in every thing until I should return to Charleston, requested of him to take a building for a second temporary Church in that City, and if possible to purchase ground in a good situation for a large Cathedral Church. On this day I went on board the Sloop Delight, Captain Cooper, bound for Savannah, having with me the Revd. Robert Browne, and went down the harbour next morning to Ira.

January 17th. Anchored at the bar of Savannah, off Tybee light-house.

18th. Came up the river, landed at Savannah, there had been no Priest here since October, when the Revd. Mr. Cooper of Augusta spent 12 days in the City. I inspected the Church in Liberty Square that evening—found two silver Chalices, one of [Page 8] which was gilt, and directed the Patena of one of them to be repaired, one Ciborium, and one Remonstrance, belonging to the Church, also one good Cope and Benediction Veil, six suits of Vestments complete, two Cassocks, one Missal, six Altar Cloths, four Corporals, seven purifiers, two Albs, two Surplices, one Amict, two Cinctures, three Burses, one Censor, *Rituale Romanum Processionale S. R. E.* Besides many small things which I condemned.

January 19th. Celebrated the holy Mass in the church and preached, heard confessions and preached again in the Evening, enquired into the possessions of the church, and found them to consist of, 1st: The half trust lot in Liberty Ward, on which the Church is built, 2d. a trust lot in

Elbert Ward, on which several houses have been built, and at present bringing from Mrs. Cotineau, to whom Revd. Abbe Carles gave a lease, of which about nine years are unexpired, 100 Dollars yearly, and from J. B. De-Berger 70 Dollars yearly, of which about two years are unexpired, and 3rd, a lot between the Theatre and Cemetery, granted upon certain unperformed conditions—I also inspected the Registers and signed them—

January 20th. Celebrated the holy Mass in the Church, and gave the holy Communion to 12 persons, and continued to hear Confessions. Wrote to the Trustees informing them of my intention of appointing a Priest to take charge of Savannah, and requesting to know the means for his support, [Page 9] also stating that for my support a voluntary subscription and collection would be made in their Church on the 3rd Sunday in Lent in every year, and that I would expect from the Trustees my travelling expenses whenever it may be necessary to visit their city— In the Evening preached and heard Confessions. Was invited by the Trustees to meet them, was informed that the rents of the pews was 1020 Dollars, and that the Clergyman could have his choice of 700 Dollars per annum and the collections of the Church and the voluntary offerings, or if he gave up the collections to the Trustees, 900 Dollars and the voluntary offerings. I also recommended to their consideration the propriety of making the necessary preparations for building a new large and respectable Church, and of providing means for the support of two or more Priests, when I should be able to send them.

January 21st. Heard Confessions, Celebrated the holy Mass, and administered the holy Communion, to 27 persons. Gave Confirmation to 15 persons. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 o'clock I spoke on the erection of the See, on my own authority, and publickly committed the flock of Savannah to the care of the Revd. Robert Browne until I should think proper to remove him, and after his Mass I preached to a large Congregation, amongst whom were the principal

lawyers of Savannah and many other strangers. [Page 10] In the evening I had Vespers and gave an Exhortation and Benediction—Church crowded and surrounded.

January 22d. Heard Confessions, Celebrated the holy Mass, and gave Communion to seven persons, also gave an Exhortation. Heard Confessions and preached in the evening. Received a letter from the Archbishop of Baltimore, full of kindness and was asked by the Mayor and others to preach in the Protestant Episcopal Church, which I declined for the present.

January 23d. Celebrated the holy Mass, gave Communion to eight persons, appointed John Dillon to read prayers for Mass on Sundays, until the return of the Revd. Mr. Browne whom I took on the Visitation.

January 24th. Left Savannah at 4 o'clock in the morning in the stage for Augusta, and after two days travelling, the first day very wet, the second excessively cold, I arrived at Augusta in the evening of the 25th where I was very kindly received by the Revd. Samuel Cooper, the Pastor, a convert, and the Trustees of the Church.

January 26th. Being the anniversary of my Father's death (9 years), I celebrated the holy Mass for the repose of his soul. Heard Confessions and preached in the evening—made various enquiries about the Church property &c &c.

January 27th. Celebrated the holy Mass, enquired into the state of the Church, wrote to Catholics in Darien, St. Marys, [Page 11] and Jekyl, requesting information as to the state of Religion. Heard Confessions and preached in the Evening.

January 28. Sunday. Attended at Church, heard Confessions, about 30 at the holy Communion. Celebrated the holy Mass. Found belonging to the Church one suit of poor vestments complete, one suit Black vestments complete, two good Albs, two good Amicts, three Altar cloths, one surplice, eight Candlesticks, four Corporals, twelve purifiers. The possessions of the Church are one
