

12

OPINIONS  
OF  
IRISH BISHOPS  
AND OTHER DIVINES,  
IN FAVOR OF  
*Sunday Closing*  
AND  
*Saturday Early Closing*  
OF  
PUBLIC HOUSES IN IRELAND.

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IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INTEMPERANCE,  
EUSTACE BUILDINGS, EUSTACE STREET, DUBLIN.

1888.



OPINIONS  
OF  
IRISH BISHOPS AND OTHER  
DIVINES.  
ON  
SUNDAY CLOSING  
AND  
SATURDAY EARLY CLOSING  
OF  
PUBLIC HOUSES,



**THE RIGHT REV. DR. WOODLOCK,**  
BISHOP OF ARDAGH AND CLONMACNOISE.

ST. MEL'S, LONGFORD, *February 20th, 1888*

MY DEAR MR. NICOLLS,

I hasten to answer the three questions you have asked in your favour of the 18th inst.:—

1. The effects of the Sunday Closing Act of 1878 have been such in this diocese as to convince me that its being made permanent would be productive of the best results.

As we have no large town in this diocese I cannot offer an opinion as to its extension to the exempted districts.

2. I am not aware of any opposition on the part of my people to the principle of closing public houses on Sundays.

I wish they were closed on holidays also, and on Saturday evenings, at an earlier hour than at present.

3. As to the way of dealing with licensed houses, I am not sufficiently conversant with the circumstances to offer an opinion. When a wise law is enacted by the legislature I think it ought to be carried out in the spirit in which it has been enacted, and, unless in exceptional cases, even to the letter, especially when there is question of checking the dreadful crime of intoxication.

Wishing you and yours every happiness,

I remain,

My dear Mr. Nicolls,

Yours most sincerely,

✠ BARTH. WOODLOCK,

Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.

A. J. Nicolls, Esq., Hon Sec.

THE RIGHT REV. DR. NULTY,  
BISHOP OF MEATH.

MULLINGAR,  
*February 26th, 1888.*

MY DEAR MR. NICOLLS,

In reply to your letter I beg to say that it is of supreme importance, not only in the interests of sobriety and temperance, but of law and order generally, that the Sunday Closing Act of 1878 should be renewed and re-enacted in the form of a permanent law or statute.

To my certain knowledge the social results and blessings which that Act has produced, throughout this Diocese at least, have been as marvellous as they have been invaluable.

I have not seen a single drunken man or woman in any part of the Diocese since the Act came into force, and where it had been honestly carried out; and in this Diocese, as far as I know, it has been fairly carried out everywhere. As I write with a due sense of my responsibility, I feel I have no *data* that would authorize me to offer more than a mere guess at what would be the results of this Act in the cities or towns that have been exempted from its operations. But estimating the Act from its results here, I should think it would be a great blessing and gain to have it extended to the exempted towns and cities as well.

I remain, my dear Mr. Nicolls,

Respectfully yours,

✠ THOMAS NULTY.

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.

P.S.—I believe the proposed Bill for total and universal Sunday Closing would encounter no serious opposition except from pecuniarily interested parties. ✠ T. Nulty.

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**THE RIGHT REV. DR. LYNCH,**  
BISHOP OF KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN.

TULLOW, CO. CARLOW,  
*February 29th, 1888.*

MY DEAR MR. NICOLLS,

In answer to your letter regarding the Sunday Closing Bill I cannot do better than quote the words addressed by the Bishops of Ireland to their flocks from the National Synod of Maynooth. "Drunkennes," they declare, "has wrecked more homes than ever fell beneath the crowbar in the worst days of eviction ; it has filled more graves and made more widows and orphans than did the famine. It has broken more hearts, blighted more hopes, and rent asunder family ties more ruthlessly than the enforced exile to which their misery has condemned exiles." Looking at this awful picture no one could love his religion and his country who would not be glad to take part in forwarding the Sunday Closing Act by making it permanent and fully extended to every city in Ireland without one exception.

I enclose £1 towards the fund for this most religious and patriotic object, and remain,

Very faithfully yours,

A J. Nicolls, Esq.

✠ J. LYNCH.



**THE RIGHT REV. DR. O'DWYER,**  
BISHOP OF LIMERICK.

THE PALACE, CORBALLY, LIMERICK,  
*February 21st, 1888.*

DEAR MR. NICOLLS,

I have no hesitation in saying, both on my own authority, and on the information I have received from the clergy of the Diocese that the Sunday Closing Act as far as it has gone has been a great blessing. I believe that it would do still greater good to extend it to the city, and make it permanent: and to such legislation I do not think that there would be any substantial opposition from any class.

I am, dear Mr. Nicolls,

Faithfully yours,

✠ E. T.,

Bishop of Limerick.

Archibald Nicolls, Esq.

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**THE RIGHT REV. DR. MacCORMACK,**  
BISHOP OF GALWAY.

GALWAY, *February 21st, 1888.*

MY DEAR MR. NICOLLS,

I am quite in favour of making the "Sunday Closing Act" permanent, extending its operation to every city and town in Ireland, and of curtailing the Saturday hours for sale.



And I believe there is little, if any, opposition to the principle of the Act, except on the part of traders or manufacturers who have a pecuniary interest in the sale of intoxicating drinks.

Excessive drinking is now more than ever a crying curse to the country. Apart from the high moral considerations, it is an economic evil of increasing magnitude in these days of general depression. Needless to further enlarge upon an evil so patent.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Nicolls,

Yours very faithfully,

✠ F. J. MACCORMACK,

Bishop of Galway, &c.

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.

**THE RIGHT REV. DR. POWER,**  
BISHOP OF WATERFORD.

BISHOP'S HOUSE, WATERFORD,  
*February 23rd, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of enquiry about "Sunday Closing," I beg to reply that, from my experience in Dungarvan, great evils will arise if the existing law be allowed to lapse. The sale of liquor on Sundays was always a fruitful source of great demoralization to our people, and now that Athletic meetings are being held in the vicinity of our towns on Sundays, if unlimited sale of strong drinks be allowed, law and order and safety to life will be imperilled.

Putting aside the roughs and the poor unfortunate people who have to live by the liquor traffic, all the industrious and respectable classes are unanimously opposed to the unrestricted sale of alcoholic fusil oil, perhaps something even worse.

But to my mind the late hours at which grog shops are allowed to be kept open works the most ruin. I have known hundreds of poor people to bring in to market sheep and piglings at 9 o'clock a.m., and that these were found at 10 o'clock at night all there starving in their creels whilst the owners were visiting public house after public house. The police had no power, and I had myself by moral suasion to put down the horrible abuse. Is there any reason for this, except the Excise and publican's interest.

About cities, as I have no experience, I offer no opinion.

Yours,



P. POWER,

Bishop of Waterford.

Archd. J. Nicolls, Esq.

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**HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. DR. McEVILLY,**  
ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM.

TUAM,

*February 25th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter I briefly answer the three questions you propose.

1. I am decidedly of opinion, judging from the manifestly beneficial effects of the operation of the Sunday Closing

Act in the past, that it "can be usefully made permanent."—nay, that the greatest injury to society and religion would result from its abolition, which I would regard as a misfortune.

2. I don't believe there is any opposition whatever, on the part of the rational and well meaning portion of society, to the principle of the Act, those excepted who have a pecuniary interest in the sale of strong drink. The testimony of interested witnesses in any cause can easily be estimated at its proper value.

3. Early closing on Saturday would, no doubt, be most beneficial if practicable. I have very little doubt on my mind that wherever the Sunday Act fails of the intended effect, it is altogether owing to want of vigilance on the part of the police, and others concerned, in having the provisions of this salutary Bill strictly enforced, and their violations visited with due punishment.

I have the honour to be,

Your faithful Servant

✠ JOHN,

Archbishop of Tuam.

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.

**HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. DR. CROKE,**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF CASHEL.**

THE PALACE, THURLES,  
*March 15th.*

MY DEAR SIR,

The Sunday Closing Act has in my opinion been productive of enormous good throughout this country, and should be made a permanent statute.

It has done admirably in towns, and would doubtless be equally serviceable in cities, if indeed the police authorities, so scrupulously attentive to other phases of Irish life, could be got to do their plain duty in this respect also.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

A. Nicolls, Esq.

✠ T. W. CROKE,  
 Archbishop of Cashel.

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**THE RIGHT REV. DR. BROWNRIGG,**  
**BISHOP OF OSSORY.**

KILKENNY, *March 16th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

As the subject of Temperance is one in which I have been for a long time deeply interested and the progress of which I have watched with a very keen appreciation, I am much obliged for the opportunity you afford me of offering my opinion on the important questions you propose.

I am strongly inclined to think that the lapse of the present Sunday Closing Act would be attended with the

most calamitous social and moral evils for the people of Ireland.

The very stringency of the law for the last seven years, if it be now allowed to lapse, would be, in my opinion, only a new incentive with many of our people to excess, and bad as drinking on Sundays was before the Act, I am almost certain it would be worse now. Hence, by all means, I am anxious that this wholesome restriction on the sale of intoxicating drink should continue and be made perpetual. It is my opinion, too, that an immense boon would be conferred on the labouring and artisan classes in Ireland, if the public houses were bound by law to close on Saturday evenings at an early hour. A large portion of the earnings of the week finds its way to the till of the public house on Saturdays.

I happen to have a pretty fair knowledge of the conditions of life in the five large cities, which hitherto have been exempted under the Act, and that knowledge forces me to say that I should hail the extension of the Act to these cities as a boon and a blessing not only to the people who dwell in them, but still more to the large numbers of the rural population who crowd them on Sundays.

I do not think any section of the community could possibly feel itself aggrieved by such legislation, except that alone which directly derives a profit from the sale of drink.

I remain, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

✠ A. BROWNRIGG.

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.



THE RIGHT REV. DR. BROWNE, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF FERNS.

WEXFORD, *March 16th*, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to answer two of the three queries you sent me.

1. I do *not* approve of allowing the Sunday Closing system to lapse. I think it has done an immense amount of good. I am strongly in favour of Sunday Closing of public houses.

3. I am of opinion that there are *none* opposed to Sunday Closing of public houses except those who have a pecuniary interest in the sale of drink.

2. As I have never lived in a large town or city, I feel that I am not in a position to give an opinion on the question whether it would be advisable or not to have Sunday Closing introduced into large towns and cities.

The Archbishop of Dublin and the bishops of Cork, Belfast, Waterford and Limerick who live in the cities in question would, from their experience, be able to give an opinion of some weight on this question.

I hope you may be able to succeed in closing all public houses at nine o'clock on Saturday nights.

Wishing you every success in your laudable undertaking,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.

✠ JAMES BROWNE.

THE RIGHT REV. DR. GILLOOLY,  
BISHOP OF SLIGO.

SLIGO, *March 28th*, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

Please excuse me for not replying to your first letter. My silence was owing to frequent absence and hurry of work, and partly also to the serious doubts I entertain as to the advantages of the Sunday Closing Bill if not supplemented by early closing of public houses on Saturdays, and by the adoption of stringent measures to prevent the illicit sale of intoxicants on Sundays. If Sunday Closing is to have in the future, as it has had in the past, the effect of multiplying shebeen houses indefinitely, and without any *bona fide* effort of the police or the Magistracy to prevent their cursed traffic—if, moreover, licensed houses are to be open on Sundays to all who represent themselves as travellers—it will, in my opinion, be better for the morality and health of our people, at least in the towns, that the Sunday Closing Act should be allowed to expire. In the *country districts* the Act has had notably good results, and I should wish to see it continue there in force, but even there illicit sale of drink is practically unchecked.

If the Act is to be renewed, I think the opening of licensed houses for a few hours on Sundays in the large towns and cities would rather prevent than promote intemperance.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

✠ L. GILLOOLY



THE RIGHT REV. DR. McALISTER,  
BISHOP OF DOWN.

CHICHESTER PARK, BELFAST

*March 15th, 1888.*

SIR,

In reply to the questions in your letter of the 13th inst., regarding Sunday Closing, I desire to state:—

1. I would prefer to see the Act of 1878 renewed in rural districts : but the extension of total Sunday Closing to large towns where it is usually accompanied by shebeen and family drinking, would not, in my opinion, tend to promote sobriety or morality.

2. Total Sunday Closing is known by experience to lead in large towns to illicit drinking in shebeens, with its accompanying immoralities, and to what is a much greater evil, and beyond the power of the police or law to correct to family drinking. When the men cannot go to the public house for their drink on Sunday they take it to their home on Saturday, and share it with all the members of the family. By degrees the women and children and whole household learn to drink, and, the habit once acquired, descends like an heirloom. By visiting Sunday after Sunday the dwellings of the working classes in a city where the law of total Sunday Closing existed, I witnessed undeniable proofs of what I here refer to. The streets were deserted and silent, but inside the closes where the working classes live the utter inefficiency of total Sunday Closing

to prevent Sunday drinking was visible on every landing. The police statistics say nothing of this phase of the question, but "Our Father who seeth in secret, is He the less offended on that account?"

3. Those who have no pecuniary interest in the sale of drink, although not likely to give active opposition, look on the police statistics as testifying to outward appearances only so far as regards large towns, and, therefore, as not affording a reliable basis for restrictive legislation.

4. I look on the effort the Prevention of Intemperance Society is making to get embodied with the Sunday Closing Bill a proviso giving legal power to the majority of the people of each district to prohibit by a direct veto the sale of intoxicating drinks in their localities, as an insidious attempt to establish a system of legalised boycotting, and as a death warrant to hundreds of virtuous and respectable Catholic traders in the North of Ireland. And if the Irish Parliamentary party do not oppose it to the utmost of their power, they will deserve, in my opinion, to forfeit the confidence of the Catholics of Ulster.

I have the honour, Sir, to be

Your obedient Servant,

✠ P. McALISTER

Bishop of Down and Connor.

THE RIGHT REV. DR. CONWAY,  
BISHOP OF KILLALA.

BISHOP'S HOUSE, BALLINA, CO. MAYO,  
*March 20th, 1888.*

DEAR MR. NICOLLS,

In reply to your letter I beg to say that, in my opinion, as well as in that of the overwhelming majority of the people of this Diocese, it is of the greatest importance, not only in the interest of temperance and sobriety, but also of law and order, that the Sunday Closing Act of 1878 should be re-enacted as a permanent law.

It has done well in towns, and I see no reason why it would not be equally serviceable in cities, if only enforced. I am also of opinion, that Early Closing on Saturdays, would be a great blessing in both towns and cities where the artisan and labouring classes are so much exposed to the temptation of having their week's earnings squandered in public houses.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

✠ HUGH CONWAY,  
Bishop of Killala.

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.,  
Hon Secretary, &c

THE RIGHT REV. DR. DONNELLY,  
BISHOP OF CLOGHER.

BISHOP'S HOUSE, MONAGHAN,  
*May 15th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your enquiry, I have to say that, consulting for the secular as well as the religious interests of the country, I am a decided advocate of the Sunday Closing system. Wherever the law has been honestly administered vast good has come of it. What has done so much good to town and country, could not but be, in my opinion, beneficial to large centres of population; and so I am for extending it to Belfast and the hitherto exempted cities.

I would recommend the curtailment of the hours for drinking on Saturday night, because of the special reasons connected with that night, and also for the more effectual securing of Sunday temperance.

I am, dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours, .

✠ JAMES DONNELLY,

A. J. Nicolls, Esq.

Bishop of Clogher.

THE RIGHT REV. DR. FITZGERALD,  
BISHOP OF ROSS.

BISHOP'S HOUSE, SKIBBEREEN,  
*May 15th, 1888.*

The Right Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald presents his compliments to the Hon. Secretaries of the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance, and begs to enclose copy of Resolutions in connection with the Sunday Closing question recently passed at a Conference of the Clergy of this Diocese.

THE BISHOP AND PRIESTS OF ROSS ON  
SUNDAY CLOSING.

At a Conference of the Priests of Ross, held on Tuesday in Rosscarbery, presided over by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, the question of Sunday Closing of Public Houses was discussed, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

“That the Sunday Closing Act which has been in force in this Diocese for nearly a decade has been attended with the best and most beneficial results, and that it is desirable it should become a permanent enactment, and its provisions be more strictly enforced.”

“That public houses ought to be closed at an early hour on Saturday nights.”



**HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. ROBERT KNOX, D.D.,**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH AND PRIMATE OF**  
**IRELAND.**

THE PALACE, ARMAGH,  
*March 14th, 1888.*

SIR,

In reply to your letter I beg to say that the Diocese of Armagh has annually petitioned for the *permanency* and *extension* of "Sunday Closing Act" to the *whole of Ireland*. I cannot possibly understand the grounds on which *certain towns* are exempt. If the evil of intemperance, especially on Saturday nights and Sunday is to be checked by legislation in small towns, why are large towns suffered to indulge in their evil habits unchecked?

Has sin and all the crying evils resulting from intemperance, a *special license* in certain large cities, and a toleration which could not be extended to small cities?

The Act at present is either *right or wrong*; if *right* it should be permanent and apply to all, if *wrong* it should apply to none.

Yours truly,  
 R. A., Armagh, Primate.

**HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. LORD PLUNKET,**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.**

THE PALACE, ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN,  
 DUBLIN, *March 26th, 1888.*

DEAR MR. WIGHAM,

I can confidently answer all your queries in the affirmative. I have no doubt that the Sunday Closing Act

has had a most beneficial effect, so far as it has been hitherto available, and I know that I express the feelings of the large majority of Irish Churchmen in this Diocese, when I add that its permanent enactment and extension to the cities and towns at present exempted from its full operation, would, in our opinion, tend to promote the well-being of all classes of the community, and more especially of those who earn an honest livelihood by the work of their hands.

Yours faithfully,

PLUNKET, Dublin.

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**THE RIGHT REV. WILLIAM ALEXANDER, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF DERRY AND RAPHOE.

THE PALACE, LONDONDERRY,

*April 4th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

My Diocese has as yet made no formal and effective utterance upon the Irish Sunday Closing Act. I am however convinced that a large majority of the Members of the church are strongly in its favour.

My opinion in the abstract is rather against the class of legislative enactments which are known as "preventive." But the closing of public houses on Sunday is so beneficial to the community; and drunkenness so truly *criminal* as well as *sinful*; that I entirely concur with the eminent Prelates whose opinions you have kindly forwarded to me.



Temperance and thrift are the qualities which can alone bring solid improvement to Ireland. It is impossible to doubt that the removal of temptation to drink on the sacred day when the masses have most leisure for the said form of indulgence will tend to the formation of these good habits.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM, Derry and Raphoe.

Henry Wigham, Esq.

**THE RIGHT REV. SAMUEL SHONE, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF KILMORE.

KILMORE HOUSE, CAVAN,

*March 26th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter I beg to say, that as far as my knowledge goes, the effects of the Sunday Closing Act have been very beneficial in this locality. I sincerely hope it may be made permanent, and extended to the five towns at present exempted from its full operations; this would, in my opinion, meet with general approval from the people in my Diocese.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

SAMUEL, Kilmore.

Henry Wigham, Esq.

THE RIGHT REV. WILLIAM REEVES, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF DOWN AND CONNOR.

CONWAY HOUSE, DUNMURRY,  
CO. ANTRIM, *March 17th*, 1888.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 14th regarding the Irish Sunday Closing Act, I write to say I have no means of knowing what may be the desire of the people in my Diocese as to its being made permanent, but that in the last meeting of the Synod, representing the Members of the Church of Ireland in the Counties of Down and Connor, the report of the Committee of the Diocesan Temperance Society was received containing the following passage, "We must state our assured conviction that the Act has proved itself to be a measure of great practical utility; and so far from withdrawing its provisions, we earnestly trust that it may be made a permanent measure to include as well the partially exempted cities and towns," to which no exception was taken, and in which, as you ask for an expression of my own opinion, I fully concur.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Henry Wigham, Esq.

WILLIAM,  
Down and Connor.

THE RIGHT REV. C. P. REICHEL, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF MEATH.

BALLYMACOLL HOUSE,  
DUNBOYNE, *March 13th*, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

I cannot answer for the opinion of the population of my Diocese regarding the Sunday Closing Act. I should think that the more respectable, and probably almost all the Members of the Irish Church would wish it to be continued as being undoubtedly beneficial to morality and religion.

My own opinion is decidedly in favour of its being extended to the five towns at present (to me unaccountably) exempted from its operation.

I have heard the Act argued against on the ground of its being often secretly infringed and thus tempting to stealthy infractions of law. But I know not how any prohibitive law, however necessary, can do otherwise than tempt ill-disposed persons to infringe it.

The question is, is it beneficial to the community in general? And I think the Act in question is beneficial to the community.

Yours sincerely,

C. P., Meath,

Henry Wigham, Esq.

**THE RT. REV. WILLIAM PACKENHAM WALSH, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF OSSORY.

THE PALACE, KILKENNY,  
*March 16th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

So far as I have been able to ascertain the effects in this Diocese of Sunday Closing Act, they have been beneficial.

I am sure that the overwhelming majority of my flock would wish the Act to be made permanent, and I am clearly of opinion that it ought to be extended to the towns which at present are exempted.

Whatever may be said in favour of the original experiment, I think that to continue the exemption now would be an absurdity in respect of principle, and a blunder in point of legislation.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Wigham, Esq.

W. P., Ossory

**THE RIGHT REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF LIMERICK.

THE PALACE, HENRY STREET,  
LIMERICK, *March 16th, 1888.*

DEAR MR. WIGHAM,

I am of opinion that the Sunday Closing Act has been beneficial, and I have reason to believe that the people in my Diocese would desire its being made permanent.

I am decidedly in favour of its being extended to the five towns at present exempted from its full operation.

I remain,

Very faithfully yours,

Henry Wigham, Esq.

C., Limerick.

**THE RIGHT REV. WILLIAM B. CHESTER, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF KILLALOE.

CLANISFORD, KILLALOE,  
*March 15th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

The Bishop is seriously ill and quite unable to attend to business. I know his Lordship's mind well enough to say that I am quite sure he would wish for the extension of the Act to the five larger towns. He has often spoken of the advantages which have been gained by its application to the smaller towns.

Faithfully yours,

ARTHUR H. STANISTREET, Clk.,  
Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Killaloe.

**THE RIGHT REV. ROBERT S. GREGG, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF CORK.

THE PALACE, CORK,  
*March 15th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to the letter of enquiry which you have addressed to me, I have no hesitation in saying that I

believe the operation of the Sunday Closing Act has been beneficial in this Diocese. The opinions of a large majority of the people, would, I have no doubt, be in favour of its being made permanent, a minority, would, of course object. It never appeared to me that there was sufficient reason for the exclusion of the City of Cork from the operation of the Act. No necessity exists for keeping open the public houses in the city on Sunday, and if the clauses relating to travellers were altered or interpreted more strictly I believe it would be for the benefit of the people.

The social condition of the masses in this city is far below what the commercial advantages and trade of the city place within their power to attain.

The quality most to be desired is that spirit of self-control which would lead to temperance and thrift, and from which with the blessing of God social progress would surely spring.

I am,

Yours very faithfully,

Henry Wigham, Esq.

ROBERT S., Cork.

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**THE RIGHT REV. MAURICE DAY, D.D.,**  
BISHOP OF CASHEL.

PALACE, WATERFORD,

*March 21st, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter I beg to say I have reason to believe that the Irish Sunday Closing Act has worked well in this part of the country. It is the earnest desire of most



people that it should be made permanent, and that the five exempted towns should be included in the Act.

From what I have heard, I would think a very important addition to the law would be the closing of all public houses at an early hour on Saturdays.

Faithfully yours,

Henry Wigham, Esq.

MAURICE F., Cashel.

**THE RIGHT REV. DR. BERNARD,**  
BISHOP OF TUAM.

THE PALACE, TUAM,  
*April 6th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

The Bishop, being in delicate health, desires me to write and say how cordially he sympathizes with your endeavours in favour of Sunday Closing, the benefits of which he considers have been very great, notwithstanding the laxity with which the Act has been carried out in many places. He trusts that the Act may be extended to those places at present exempt, and also greater endeavours made to enforce the provisions of the Act, which would, he feels convinced, "if strictly carried out," be of much advantage to the morality and well-being of the country, and assist to check what is at present a power fruitful for unchristian and godless discord and bitterness.

Faithfully yours,

CORNWALLIS C. HEWITT,  
Sec. to Bishop of Tuam.



THE RIGHT REV. CHARLES MAURICE STACK, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF CLOGHER.

KNOCKBALLYMORE, CLONES,

*April 30th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

I have no doubt that the great majority of members of the Church of Ireland in the Diocese of Clogher agree with me in their wish to make the present Sunday Closing Act permanent.

As there are none of the excepted towns in this Diocese I have not the same opportunity of knowing public opinion with regard to them. I cannot, myself, see why any exception should be made. I must add, however, that unless more active steps be taken to enforce the law the good intentions of your Association and of the Legislature will be in vain. I strongly press upon you to bring influence to bear upon the local authorities in this direction.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

C. M., Clogher.

Henry Wigham, Esq.,  
Eustace Street, Dublin.

THE REV. JOHN H. ORR,

MODERATOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH.

THE MANSE, ANTRIM,  
*March 26th, 1888.*

DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of your letter asking my opinion of the operation of the Sunday Closing Act.

I have no doubt whatever, that its operation has been highly beneficial, and that the people would desire it to be made permanent. I am also in favour of the extension of the Act to the five towns at present exempted from its full operation.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN H. ORR.

P.S.—I have no hesitation in saying that all the Ministers, and ruling elders of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, would concur in the opinion I have given, and ninety-nine in every hundred of the Presbyterian people.

J. H. O.

Henry Wigham, Esq.

**THE REV. JOHN D. POWELL,**  
VICE-PRESIDENT METHODIST CONFERENCE.

SEYMOUR STREET, LISBURN,  
*March 29th, 1888.*

SIR,

At the request of my friend the Rev. John D. Powell, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, I reply to your letter of the 19th instant.

Allow me, in the first place, to apologise on his behalf for the delay which has occurred in answering your important communication. It will be enough to say that Mr. Powell is so seriously unwell as to be unable to transact any business.

He requests me to say however that, having lived nine years in Dublin, three in Cork, and six in Belfast, he has had ample opportunities of forming an opinion as to the operation of the Sunday Closing Act in these cities. He has the deepest possible conviction that even the Sunday Closing which has been enforced, has been attended with very beneficial results ; he would most earnestly desire that the Act should be fully extended to the five towns at present partially exempted, and that it should be made permanent ; and he believes, that the people generally, apart from those engaged in the liquor traffic, would also desire that the Sunday Closing Act should be extended to the five towns now exempt, and should be made permanent.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVER McCUTCHEON.

## PREVIOUS OPINIONS OF STATESMEN AND OTHER PUBLIC MEN.

The late Right Hon. W. E. Forster, a former Chief Secretary, said :—"As far as I can learn, it (the Sunday Closing Act) has more than justified the expectations of its supporters. In two ways the positive effects have been shown to be almost better—really better, I think, than most of us hoped they would be, although there were expectations of good; and also it is quite clear that those who prophesied that it would be a step considerably in advance of public feeling in Ireland have been disappointed. As far as I can make out, public opinion has entirely gone with the operation of the Act."

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The Right Hon. Sir George Otto Trevelyan, Bart., then Chief Secretary for Ireland, in his speech in the House of Commons, 20th June, 1884, said "that he had studied the statistics closely in the light of the very broad combinations in which they had been placed by the advocates and opponents of the measure, and had come to the conclusion that Sunday Closing had been a great and almost unmixed benefit to those parts of the country where it had been in operation, and that it might be hopefully and confidently extended to the five exempted cities."

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*From His Eminence the Late Cardinal Cullen, then Archbishop of Dublin.*

"Whilst endeavouring to prevent excesses in drinking or Sundays, it seems to me that it would be equally important that the meeting should take steps to prevent the evils

occasioned by permitting public houses or beerhouses to remain open to a late hour on Saturday night. The men who drink to excess, and continue to do so almost up to the first dawn of the Lord's Day, find themselves unfit to assist at divine worship, or to perform any religious duties, or to receive instructions from their pastors on Sunday."

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### EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE, 1877.

*The Late Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P.*

"In large cities where a number of artisans receive their wages on Saturday, the Saturday evening drinking creates the greatest havoc on the week's wages, and leads to a great deal of the Sunday drinking as far as it exists at all."

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*The Late Mr. Michael Dwyer, then Secretary Licensed Grocers and Vintners' Association.*

"You cannot tell us whether the body whom you represent are at all favourable to the view of closing earlier on Saturday? I can say this much for them, that if the intemperance and if the excess of drinking, which undoubtedly do exist much more on Saturday night than at any other time, can be put a stop to by any reasonable sacrifice on their part, I think I could almost undertake for them that they would be willing to consent to that sacrifice."

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*Mr. William Spillane, J.P., Limerick.*

"I would like to have closing at seven o'clock on Saturday, closing on all Sunday, and not opening before nine o'clock on Monday. I believe if that were done, very rarely would people lose their work on Monday as they do now."





# Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance.



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