

OLIVER CROMWELL And The JESUITS

by Nelson C. Turner

It has recently come to our attention that a "Reformation" website has placed an article called "The Life and Crimes of Oliver Cromwell." These Presbyterians have accused Oliver of being a Jesuit dupe, doing great harm to the Reformation in England, and many other things. The author provides a citation that states Cromwell ate familiarly at his table with a Jesuit. The reference came from a work called "Hisotry of the Jesuits in England" by Taunton. He failed to tell his readers that Taunton was Father Taunton, a Catholic priest and author, who supposedly despised the Jesuits.

This article also features the oft repeated statement that Cromwell "sacrificed 3,000 people in the siege" of Drogheda. This is a gross misrepresentation of what occurred at Drogheda, where the Parliamentary Army was repulsed at the first breach of the walls with some loss, and the second assault through the breach (opened by cannon fire) was led in person by Cromwell. The armed enemy in the town had been given an opportunity to surrender, and had declined. At that period, the rules of engagement considered the lives of all such armed men in a town that refused quarter to be forfeit. Many were put to death in the general havoc; particularly a group that went up into a tower and refused to come down. The tower was set on fire; one man, who jumped from a window at a great height broke his leg in the landing. Cromwell ordered him to be left unmolested as it was God's manifest will that the man live. However, all identified friars, and Jesuits in the town *were* put to death.

Jesuit Family Album entry for John Bathe, S.J.: "John Bathe, S.J. (Irish: ?-1649) worked at the Jesuit college in Drogheda until Cromwell's invasion when he was arrested, taken to the public square, beaten, then shot by Oliver Cromwell's soldiers. In September, 1649 Cromwell with 12,000 soldiers had surrounded the town of Drogheda and demanded that the Irish defenders surrender, promising that they would not be harmed. As soon as they put down their weapons all were killed by the British. Cromwell later justified the massacre of these 3,000 men on the grounds that this would strike terror into other Irish towns and would hasten future surrenders. He justified his further slaughter of the towns' non-combatants, women and children, in that they deserved to die because of past mob violence. Later another English patriot, Winston Churchill, no great friend of Ireland, had this to say about Cromwell's actions in Drogheda, "There followed a massacre so all-effacing as to startle even the opinion of those fierce times. All were put to the sword. None escaped; every priest and friar was butchered. . . . Cromwell in Ireland, disposing of overwhelming strength and using it with merciless wickedness, debased the standards of human conduct and sensibly darkened the journey of mankind . . . Upon all of us there still lies 'the curse of Cromwell'.

Notice that the Jesuit was summarily executed. **Notice** the Jesuit Family Album quotes Jesuit coadjutor Winston Churchill in vilifying Cromwell. **Notice** that the "The Life and Crimes of Oliver Cromwell" and the Jesuit accounts have a great affinity of emotion. Further, much extant research and facts have been passed over by both accounts. Author Tom Reilly, who was born and raised in the environs of Drogheda, wrote a book titled, **"Cromwell, An Honorable Enemy"** in which he details his research that exonerates Cromwell of any wanton murder or killing. In a web post titled, *"My Declaration of War,"* he made the following challenge: "Oliver Cromwell is completely innocent of killing the ordinary unarmed people of Ireland and I defy anyone to prove otherwise."

We also take the opportunity to provide readers with a gentle nudge to read **Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell** by Thomas Carlyle, which is comprehensive in scope and gives a good picture of the man in his own words.

Further, we cite **DARK DEEDS OF THE PAPACY CONTRASTED WITH THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE GOSPEL; AND THE JESUITS UNMASKED AND POPERY UNCHANGEABLE** by the Rev. Dawson Massy; London, 1851. These citations are verbatim from the listed pages, and document Cromwell's actions concerning the Jesuits. Jesuit infiltrators in his army were exposed and removed repeatedly, and this is but one account:

"Dr. Hammond was one day in a bookseller's shop reading the works of St. Ambrose, when a soldier familiarly placed a hand on his shoulder, and looking into the volume, read it with perfect ease. Dr. Hammond, astounded, asked how he could have acquired that knowledge; the soldier boldly replied, "From the Holy Spirit who had given him the gift of tongues." "Well," said Hammond, "I will try your further." The soldier stood the test wonderfully, and freely translated Greek, Hebrew, and other languages. At length a Welsh Bible was placed before him; but he shut up the book angrily with the words, "I will not satisfy you, for you will not believe even an angel from heaven!" Dr. Hammond had him arrested and brought before Oliver Cromwell, who causes his lodgings to be searched, when several Popish and seditious papers were discovered, and in one of his boots-apparently a favorite hiding place of Jesuits-a Papal Bull, licensing him under several names, to assume what calling he pleased, and he was then playing the part of a military field preacher."

"Cromwell was the great terror of the Jesuits, and was so vigorous in his prosecution of those traitors, that when even one appeared openly in England, information was required to be instantly given him."

"The following extracts of a letter from Bishop Bramball, of Derry, to Archbishop Usher, will be read with deep interest at this eventful time, when the Jesuits are busy all around us, and have insinuated themselves into many offices of trust, both in Church and State:

"In 1646 there were sent into England 100 professed Jesuits, English, Scotch, and Irish, who had been carefully trained in France, Italy, Germany and Spain, and taught trades and professions, as well as dogmatized theology. Some were trained to represent themselves as Presbyterians, independents, Anabaptists, etc., and obliged, in public disputation, three times a week, to prove their perfect acquaintance with the doctrine and the discipline of the sect they were to enter. These Jesuit emissaries have their licenses taken out in a variety of names, so that in case of discovery, the name, dress, and c., being changed, they can baffle their pursuers and yet remain in full connection with their fraternity. To prove the constancy of the Order, they must every month report minutely, not only all their own sayings and doings, but also all the valuable information which they can discover; as that Romanist English abroad are better acquainted with events than those at home. Of these hundred Jesuits who came to England in 1646, a large number entered the parliament army, and others the army of Charles I., and often old college companions were confounded to find themselves on the opposite sides, until the secret bulls cleared up the difficulty, by showing their vocation to have been fixed by the General of the Order."

"Oliver Cromwell defeated the English Papists and the duped Scotch Presbyterians (who had accepted Catholic Charles II as a Protestant), and subjugated Ireland in retribution for rebellion and the slaughter of tens of thousands of Bible believing Protestants in 1641. His name was a terror to every Catholic monarch in Europe, the Pope himself resting uneasy as long as Cromwell lived."