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EDWARD WHELAN

This is true Liberty, when Free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

[EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.]

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No. 40.

KIRWAN UNMASKED.

LETTER V.

TO KIRWAN,

ALIAS THE REVEREND NICHOLAS MURRAY, D. D.,
Of Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

DEAR SIR,—

It is deeply to be regretted that the serpent of infidelity was ever permitted to nestle in your bosom—far when I consider that you reduce the standard of revelation to the test of common sense—when I consider the looseness of your moral principles, so far forth as they are exhibited by your own pen—when I behold the spirit of Voltaire and Thomas Paine in the profanity and ribaldry with which you treat every sacred subject which your common sense does not approve, I am compelled to say that even on the supposition that infidelity had been expelled from your breast before the writing of your letters, still,

The spirit of the serpent is over them all.

Your moral principles, as set forth by yourself, even in my regard, are much more in keeping with what might be expected from a skeptic of the world, than from a clergyman of any Christian denomination. You have the grossness to impute to me that I am consciously a deceiver of my fellow-creatures, and yet you do not hesitate to express respect for my character. Is this a principle of Presbyterian inculcation? Or has it shot up through the Confession of Faith from the older and deeper root of your early infidelity?

Again you urge me to renounce the Catholic religion, in which, you suppose, I do not believe; and yet, with that loose morality which would better become a professed infidel, you implicitly encourage me to persevere in carrying on the supposed villainy of deception! The reader would hardly believe this statement possible, so I shall quote your own words to prove it. You say: "And since in the maturity of my judgment I would do the same."—p. 29. So then, dear Kirwan, you have the candor to avow on principle, and in the "maturity of your judgment," that if your lot had been cast among villains, you would be as great a villain as any of them. Is this avowal worthy of even an infidel?

That you should be where and what you now are, is easily accounted for—by the ignorance of the young, which you have described, and the poverty which you have not described. Ignorance and poverty are mysterious dispensations of God's providence. And, on that account, I would treat with indulgence whatever errors in your early life are to be ascribed to either. But for the deliberate conclusions, uttered in your recent letters, and in the "maturity of your judgment," in which you avow yourself ready to act an evil part with Bishops and Priests, on the mere condition of your having been one of them, I cannot but hold you morally responsible.

Thank God, however, you are neither a Bishop nor a Priest; and your once having been talked of as a candidate for Maynooth, was, happily for the Church, only "talk" after all. You are a Presbyterian minister in Elizabethtown, where your ministry can do no harm;—for, if your creed be true, those who are foreordained to eternal life, will be saved such as well as without your pastoral offices.

In my last letter I showed, according to your own account, that the prohibition to eat flesh meat on Fridays and Saturdays was the first practical reason for your change of religion. It was an "unreasonable regulation, and you rejected it; and as far as you now remember, this was your first step towards light and freedom."—p. 32. On the very next page you find you soliloquizing in a style of infidel rationalism, which Pagan Greece, or Protestant Germany, could hardly have surpassed. "I thus reasoned with myself; God is a spiritual and intelligent Being, and he requires an intelligent worship. What worship I render him in the Mass I know not." (of course, since you had forgotten your catechism,) "my intelligent worship only is acceptable to Him, and is beneficial to me. I am a rational being, and I degrade my nature, and insult my Maker, in offering to Him a worship in which neither my reason, nor his intelligence, is consulted."—p. 33. Now, dear Kirwan, when we consider the state of your mind at the period when this pretended soliloquy occurred, "a perfect blank as to all religious instruction," it becomes a grave question, which I leave to the decision of casuists in mental philosophy, whether or not, in the higher ordinary sense of the term, you could rightfully call yourself a "rational being."

But I make the quotation for another purpose. The whole passage betrays a strong affinity to the spirit of Paine's "Age of Reason." The high contracting parties, implicitly, at least, stand on the one side, and yourself on the other. Both were "intelligent beings"—your Maker would be insulted, and your nature would be degraded, if you held the intercourse of worship with Him, except on the principle of reciprocal intelligence. You had just tasted of the forbidden food on the preceding page, and acquired the knowledge of "good and evil." You had partaken of Egypt's flesh-pots, and the manna had become insipid and distasteful. For your mind, there was no "intelligence" in it, and so, very naturally, you gave up—the Mass.

But now, the floodgates of the knowledge of good and evil being once opened, we may expect the mysteries of revelation to be inundated by the deluge of your "intelligence," your "reason," your "common sense." Accordingly, the adorable mystery of the Christian Eucharist, in treating of which the Fathers of the Church were struck with holy dread and religious awe, is described by you as an "absurdity."—(page 35.) So it is always with you, when you are alone.

I need scarcely inform you, sir, that the infidels of all ages would have been quite satisfied, if they had been allowed to construe the Bible according to what they call common sense. In reference to this standard, they and you appear to be perfectly agreed. Thus, you make the Bible and common sense the ultimate tribunals in the decision of religious belief. Thus, in the exercise of common sense, you do not deny the Divinity of Christ; implicitly, at least, since you call it "blasphemous" to designate the ever glorious and Blessed Virgin Mary, "as the Mother of God." If the Person of Christ was simply Divine, and Mary was truly his mother, she is, and has been always called, Mother of God, and as well as mother of man; and your denial of this can be logically sustained, only by your denial of the Saviour's Divinity. In fact, I suppose your "common sense" has already pronounced against the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, as well as against the infidelity of the Redeemer's age, as well as of our own, and you tell us, in spite of the evidence furnished by Him in His human character, and that God only can forgive sins.—(page 67.) In the spirit of a true infidel, you describe the priesthood of the Catholic Church, throughout the world, and for eighteen centuries, as having been actuated solely by the love of money.—(page 70.) Again still, in the spirit of the infidel, you sneer at the history of religion as counter to your appeal to "common sense," and tell us, that "with you the authority of our popes and councils are not worth a penny."—(page 70.)

The angel Gabriel saluted the blessed Virgin Mary, as the Scripture records, "Hail Mary, full of grace;" but you, the Presbyterian minister of Elizabethtown, speak of her as you would of a female selling candies at the corners of the street, from whom you had just bought a supply for the young Kirwans, and call her the "good woman" condescendingly.—(page 74.) The Holy Eucharist, under your "common sense," you declare to be so "altered as to defeat itself."—(page 75.) You decide that the words, "This is my body," mean, this is not my body, and with that swelling vanity peculiar to an evangelical minister who takes "common sense" as his rule for interpreting holy scripture, you exhibit your sleight of hand with a puff of self-complacency, and call upon us to admire—"just see how a little common sense simplifies everything."—(page 76.)

You tell us to interpose by venturing to suggest that a thing ought to be received for what our Saviour says it is, you warn me off, and tell me in true arrogant style, that "you will have none of my nonsense about the substance contained under the species."—(page 76.) Now, dear Kirwan, I have scriptural authority for what you here call nonsense. The Holy Ghost descended on the apostles under the species of "tongues of fire;" he descended on the Saviour under the species of "a dove," and you have decided that the distinction of the Evangelists between the species and the substance is "nonsense;"—it is "darkening counsel by words without knowledge."—(page 76.) I recommend your case to the General Assembly. In fact, you have become so enlightened in matters of dogmatic theology, under the inspiration of "common sense," that you are almost fit for a residence in Boston, where the Reverend Theodore Parker will no doubt have the charity to extend to you the right hand of Christian fellowship.

In reference to the Holy Eucharist, your infidel principle of "common sense" as interpreter of Scripture, prompts you to say that "nothing equals it in absurdity in all paganism."—(page 76.) Pray, did it ever come in the way of your extensive reading to have seen a book called the "PRESBYTERIAN CONFESSION OF FAITH as amended and ratified by the General Assembly at their sessions in 1821, and printed by Tower and Hagan in 1827." If so, turn to pages 73 and 74, and you will find it ruled that in certain cases men are placed by their Creator in such a situation, that if they do a thing they "commit a sin against God," and if they do not do it, they "commit a greater sin!" Here is a Presbyterian Doctrine to which you might apply your "common sense" with some advantage to your own brethren. The rich theme of ridicule which it would furnish for a pen of such profanity as yours, will be obvious to you at a glance.

But detail is unnecessary. The high mysteries of the Christian faith you reduce to the standard of "common sense," on almost every page. Thus: "Extreme unction," you have already pronounced "extreme nonsense."—Page 82.

"How simple and 'common sense' is all this,"—(S. S. Page 27.) "A blessed be God, you have not turned your keys on the 'common sense' of the world."—(page 28.) Of your infidel ribaldry I will give but one specimen, which I think can hardly be surpassed in the annals of sneering skepticism. "Your daily changing of a water into the real body of Christ, and then eating him, beats anything St. Fechin ever did. Your preparing an old sinner for heaven by rubbing him with olive oil, and then opening its gates to him by the keys which are only in your possession, far surpasses Fechin's turning acorns to pork. We believe the swine themselves are constantly doing this in our Western woods."—(page 33.) You tell us that the respect entertained by Catholics for relics has its *true* object—and that, on Catholic principles, "it is all the same" that the object of reverence or respect should be the head of "St. Paul" or the head of "Balaam's Ass;" and you add in your own name, and with a sneer becoming an infidel, "and I suppose the difference, sir, is very little."—(page 70.) So then, Rev. Nicholas Murray, you regard the head of an ass and that of an apostle with equal respect; for the reason, no doubt, that in your estimation, both are figuratively of the same species, or perhaps that in this instance both are scriptural subjects.

It seems the Tract Societies and Sunday Schools have adopted your letters, and given them a very extensive circulation. I do not know a shorter method of turning the young who may be subject to their training into infidels, than by placing such a book in their hands. Each of their pupils has as good a right to explain the Bible according to what he will call "common sense," as you have had. But they will not be restrained in their blasphemous ribaldry by the limits which a black coat and a white cravat have prescribed for your pen.

They will apply the arguments of "common sense" which you have wielded against Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, to the antecedent doctrines of original sin, and the atonement, and they will find no "common sense" in either. But why should I moralize for you on such a subject, when I have no evidence to prove that such a result has not been the very object of your letters; and that your zeal against Popery is not merely the gilding of the infidel pill which you would wish to see swallowed by tract distributors, Sunday school teachers, Sunday school children, and all.

Sir, the language and sentiment which I have had to pass under review in this letter are so unworthy of a man professing Christianity, that I must withhold, at its expression of my pity for you, whilst I cherish towards you as usual good wishes and good-will.

† JOHN HUGHES, Bishop of New York.

Colonial Legislature.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES.

AGREED TO BY THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

PRINCE COUNTY.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Road from Kildare Bridge to line of Lot 3,	£3 0 0
From Kildare Bridge to Capes,	2 0 0
From Western Road to Malcolm Campbell's,	2 0 0
Western Road, Lots 1, 2 and 3,	10 0 0
Peter's Road,	5 0 0
Bridge at Sea Cow Pond,	3 0 0
Bain's Mill Pond Bridge,	3 0 0
To cut down the hill at Francis Arsenaux's Mill, and to raise the Bridge,	2 0 0
From Skinner's Pond to Black Pond,	15 0 0
From Black Pond to Moeler's,	4 0 0
Palmer's Road to line of Lot 3,	10 0 0
From Simon Myers' to school-house,	4 0 0
St. Felix Bridge,	6 0 0
From O. Chaisson's to Western Road,	5 0 0
Road from the school-house on Roache's Road to the McNeill Road,	5 0 0
From Murdoch Gillis's to sea shore,	5 0 0
From Hec. McDougald's to Jas. Campbell's, Lot 3,	4 0 0
Road past Haywood's Mills,	6 0 0
From J. Perry's to Fidele Gallant's,	4 0 0
	£100 0 0

DISTRICT No. 2.

Road from Cascumpeque to Yeo's Mills,	5 0 0
Road from Dock to Cascumpeque Point,	5 0 0
From line of Lot 3 to the Dock,	4 0 0
Bridge near Dogherty's,	8 0 0
Bridge near Foy's,	5 0 0
Road from Halloran's to Costin's Mills,	20 0 0
Bridge at Long Creek,	5 0 0
Halloran's Road to Western Road,	10 0 0
Ferryman at Louis's Ferry,	4 0 0
Western Road, Lots 4, 5 and 6,	25 0 0
Bridge at Louis's ferry, in addition to last year's grant,	311 0 0
To William Wells, for attending at the building of Horton's bridge,	2 0 0
Road from line of Lot 4 to Campbelltown,	6 0 0
Last year's unappropriated money for bridge at Louis's ferry,	261 12 6
	£626 12 6

DISTRICT No. 3.

From Halloran's to Lot 8,	£4 0 0
" Brae Chapel to Western road,	6 0 0
From Birch Point to Brae road,	9 0 0
Road from Western road to big Pierre Jacques's, from West Point settlement to big Pierre Jacques's, from big Pierre Jacques's to little Pierre Jacques's, and the road from little Pierre Jacques's to Brae Chapel, Lot 9,	86 0 0
From Brae to Grand Digue,	15 0 0
Road from Macdonald's settlement to Main Road,	10 0 0
	£130 0 0

DISTRICT No. 4.

Western road, Lots 10, 11 and 12,	£30 0 0
Road from the line of Lot 12 to Large's ferry,	15 0 0
Do. Barlow's road to W. Ellis's,	8 0 0
Do. Lynche's towards Western road,	8 0 0
Do. leading from the New road leading to Macdonald's, Lot 11, to Western Road,	10 0 0
Canadian River bridge, Lot 11,	15 0 0
Bridge at Barlow's mills,	10 0 0
Ferryman, Lot 11 ferry,	4 0 0
	£100 0 0

DISTRICT No. 5.

To pay a balance due McLean and Biglow, on South West River bridge,	£75 0 0
Repairs to be done to said bridge,	7 0 0
Main Western road on Township 16,	5 0 0
Bridge at Ramsay's mill, Lot 16,	5 0 0
Haldimand River bridge,	60 0 0
Road from 15 Point road towards Miscouche Bay, 10	0 0 0
Road from Fifteen Point to McGregor's mill,	6 0 0
Do. John McGregor's, Township 16,	2 0 0
Do. Daley's to the sea shore,	2 0 0
Do. James Lyle's to Rotchford's,	2 0 0
Do. shore to Back settlement, Fifteen Point,	3 0 0
Do. Remo Arsenaux's to the shore,	2 0 0

Do. between Townships 14 and 15,	2 0 0
Do. Fifteen Point to Abraham's Village,	2 0 0
Bridge Head of Ellis's river,	7 0 0
For work performed on bridge at Joseph Arsenaux's, (League) Egmont Bay,	2 0 0
	£192 0 0

DISTRICT No. 6.

Main Western road in Township 17,	£22 0 0
Road from St. Nicholas's to Miscouche,	6 0 0
Road from St. Nicholas's to Western Road,	5 0 0
New road towards New Workingtown, in addition to the amount subscribed,	12 0 0
Bridge near James Ramsay's, Township 17,	5 0 0
New road from Williams's to Summerside,	7 0 0
Wharf at Summerside,	20 0 0
Summerside road,	10 0 0
Road leading to Rusty Creek wharf,	2 0 0
Road from Miscouche towards Linkletter's,	2 0 0
Road from Thomas LeClair's to Miscouche road,	2 0 0
	£93 0 0

Repairs on the Main Western road from Jupp's to Mrs. Barrett's, £8 0 0 |

Repairs from Mrs. Barrett's to the line of Lot 18,	6 0 0
Do. do. towards Free Line,	5 0 0
Do. do. to County line (Irishtown road),	4 0 0
County line road, from Margate towards Western road,	5 0 0

Main Western road, from Mrs. Barrett's to Traveller's Rest,	10 0 0
Road from Traveller's Rest towards Reid's,	4 0 0
Do. Reid's to Wilmot Creek bridge,	3 0 0
Bridge near Duggan's,	5 0 0

Bridge between Jas. Raynor's and Richmond Bay,	12 0 0
Road through Joseph Raynor's farm,	5 0 0
Donald Montgomery, for road through his farm,	5 0 0
Railing bridge at Wm. Jamieson's,	4 0 0
Do. near McIntyre's, Barbara Weir,	4 0 0
Where most required in Lot 19,	5 0 0
	£178 0 0

DISTRICT No. 7.

Darnley bridge towards balance paid last year,	£40 0 0
Prince County wharf to pay John Hickey for work performed,	35 0 0
Davison's bridge, balance due,	4 0 0
Indian River bridge,	20 0 0
Bridge on Town road near McLellan's mill,	3 0 0
Wallace's bridge for railing,	2 0 0
Crafer's bridge, Princetown Royalty,	4 0 0
Princetown wharf, for repairs,	15 0 0
New road between McKenzie's and Ramsay's land, Fermoyle,	3 0 0
Road between Indian River bridge and Chapel,	2 0 0
" " " and Jamieson's,	1 0 0
" from Oyster Cove road to Princetown Road,	1 0 0
" east side of Baltic river,	1 0 0
" from Royalty towards Oyster Cove,	1 0 0
County line road,	2 0 0
Road to Little Marsh,	1 0 0
Darnley bridge, for repairs,	50 0 0
	£185 0 0

DISTRICT No. 8.

Due on contract for Wilmot Creek Bridge,	£108 10 0
Repairs on Road between Thomas Gardiner's and James Kennedy's,	10 0 0
Road leading to Heald's Point Wharf	10 0 0
Causeway, near Bradshaw's Bridge,	8 0 0
Bridge near Donald Taylor's, Lot 25,	15 0 0
McLvor's, Lot 26,	5 0 0
Taylor's Mill,	3 0 0
Henry Baker's, Lot 26,	1 5 0
Clark's Mill, Lot 25,	5 0 0
Road and Bridges in Back Woods Settlement,	8 0 0
Bridge near Keefe's, Lot 25,	1 5 0
Causeway near Dunk River Bridge,	3 0 0
Bridge near Widow Wright's,	4 0 0
Main Western Road from County Line to Jupp's	3 0 0
	£185 0 0

DISTRICT No. 9.

Towards balance due on the wharf on the west side of Crapaud Harbour,	£42 0 0
Repairs on old County line Road,	3 0 0
Bridge and road from Searlton to South-West,	4 0 0
Road leading from Seven Mile Bay Road to South Shore,	5 0 0
Road from Bedeque Road to seven mile Bay Road by McLinn's,	4 0 0
From Campbell's Mill to Cape Traverse Road,	4 0 0
Causeway near Campbell's Bridge, Lot 28,	5 0 0
Road from Augustine Cove to Big Clear,	3 0 0
Aboteau, Tryon,	50 0 0
Causeway near William Clark's West Side Tryon,	3 0 0
Stephen Clerk's,	2 0 0
Gouldrop's Bridge,	20 0 0
County Line Road,	5 0 0
Road from Tryon to South West,	8 0 0
Leading to Wood's Settlement,	2 0 0
Where most required on Lot 27,	12 10 0
Where most required on Lot 28,	12 10 0
	185 0 0

DISTRICT No. 10.

Two bridges between Ellis River ferry and Port Hill,	£10 0 0
Road between Allan McLean's and Plasted's,	30 0 0
Main western road,	40 0 0
Road from western road to Egmont Bay, between Lots 13 and 14,	31 0 0
Bridge at Canada Settlement,	10 0 0
George Lewis for building bridge,	3 0 0
For work done last year,	6 12 0
Ferryman Grand River,	4 0 0
From Cross River to western road,	8 0 0
Northam road,	14 0 0
Between A. McLellan's and McDonald's to the shore,	4 0 0
Bridge on the road to Plasted's,	10 0 0
Road from Allan McLaren's to line of Lot 12,	4 0 0
Road to Canada from McLean's,	5 0 0
From Allan McLean's to western road,	5 8 0
	£185 0 0

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Floating Bridge, for contract, to be let by	
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Government, in addition to £46 16s 6d. unexpended of last year,	£87 3 6
Repairing old Town Road,	5 0 0
Corbett's Road and Bridges,	4 0 0
Road from Corbett's Woods to Murray's,	2 16 6
McLeod's Ferry,	5 0 0
Coles' Ferry £5, and £5 in addition provided the Ferryman agrees with the Road Commissioner to ferry all persons desiring the same to Church and returning, on Sundays, free, and shall produce a certificate of his having done so to the Road Commissioner,	10 0 0
Wigmore's road and bridge,	3 0 0
	£117 0 0

DISTRICT No. 2.

Malpeque Road,	£30 0 0
Anderson's Road,	15 0 0
Road from Anderson's Road to De Sable through Lot 29,	10 0 0
Millvale road and bridge,	12 0 0
Eastern road,	5 0 0
Western road,	5 0 0
Road and bridges from New Glasgow bridge, West,	10 0 0
John McNally for work done on the above road last fall,	6 0 0
Cosgrove's road,	6 0 0
County Line road,	6 0 0
To open out County Line road,	10 0 0
Junction road,	5 0 0
Johnson's road,	5 0 0
Conley's road,	5 0 0
Old Town road,	6 0 0
Hope River road,	4 0 0
Road from Rottenbury's to Haslam's,	6 0 0
For repairing bridge on Eastern Road,	2 0 0
Where most required,	5 0 0
	£153 0 0

DISTRICT No. 3.

Extra work on Oyster Bed bridge,	£10 0 0
New Glasgow road and bridges,	20 0 0
Road leading from Wheatley River bridge to Johnston's, Princetown Road,	20 0 0
Old Rustico Road,	10 0 0
Shore road to Oyster Bed,	3 0 0
Bungay road,	8 0 0
Princetown road and bridges,	10 0 0
Cavendish Lane,	4 0 0
Back Settlement road,	5 0 0
Rustico Cape road,	3 0 0
Cavendish road,	5 0 0
Hazel Grove road,	6 0 0
Patterson's road,	3 0 0
McNabb's road,	5 0 0
Road from Rustico Chapel to shore,	6 0 0
Roads and bridges throughout the District,	10 0 0
Bridge at Laird's mill,	8 0 0
New Glasgow wharf,	5 0 0
	£141 0 0

DISTRICT No. 4.

Suffolk road and bridges,	£15 0 0
Balance due contractors for bridge on Suffolk road,	51 15 0
Tracadic road from Thompson's mill, east,	4 0 0
St. Peter's road and bridges,	15 0 0
Road from Five Mile House, St. Peter's Road, to shore,	3 0 0
From Stanhope to Campbell's hill,	6 0 0
Road from Ewen McMillan's to old Church,	5 0 0
Old Stanhope Road,	4 0 0
Fuston road and bridge,	10 0 0
To cut down hills on Cove Head road,	15 0 0
Northward of Brackley Point road over Shaw's dyke,	15 0 0
Winsloe road and bridge,	15 0 0
Cross roads throughout the District,	10 0 0
Where most required,	5 0 0
To build a Wharf at the shore near Stewart's, Lot 84, in addition to a subscription of £86, provided a right of way is given to such part of said shore as the Government may approve of,	92 17 0

CHARLOTTETOWN ROYALTY.

Roads and Bridges,	£250 0 0
Roads throughout the Common of Charlottetown,	50 0 0
	£300 0 0

DISTRICT No. 5.

Towards balance due on wharf west side Crapaud wharf	£42 0 0
Building Block at Rocky Point,	58 0 0
Building Scow for Ferry between McEachern's and McEwen's wharf, West River,	15 0 0
Road from Mabey's to Bonshaw Bridge,	6 0 0
" Bonshaw to De Sable,	5 0 0
" Nine Mile Creek to Canoe Cove,	4 0 0
" Canoe Cove to Marshall's,	4 0 0
" Bonshaw to Rocky Point, West River,	10 0 0
New Argyle Settlement Road,	3 0 0
Skye Front Settlement, Lot 30,	4 0 0
Skye Back Settlement, Lot 30,	4 10 0
Sturdy's to Kelly's Cross,	6 0 0
Upper Crapaud Settlement,	4 0 0
Green Road,	4 0 0
Johnston	