

Representative Church Body Library, Dublin

MS 813

Correspondence, writings, sermon registers, research notes and press cuttings on a wide range of topical, historical and theological issues and literary and poetry interests, with daily diaries for select years, and related materials of the

Rt Revd William Shaw Kerr (1873-1960)

Curate of Shankill Lurgan (Dromore) 1897-99; St James Belfast (Connor) 1899-1901; Incumbent of Ballywalter (Down) 1901-10; St Paul Belfast (Connor) 1910-15; Seapatrick (Dromore) 1915-32; Chancellor of Dromore 1920-29; Archdeacon of Dromore 1930-32; Dean and Vicar of Belfast (Connor) 1932-45; Bishop of Down and Dromore 1945-55, elected 9 December 1944; consecrated St Anne's Cathedral Belfast 25 January 1945, retired 31 July 1955, died 2 February 1960. The papers mostly cover his time in Banbridge, as rector of Seapatrick.

1897-1960

From the family of the late Bishop Kerr, through F.J. Rankin

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1/ Sermon registers, 1901-55

These volumes record the specific scriptural context on which he preached, and the date and location of where he preached. When he preached in the Cathedral, the detail is annotated either with a red underscore, or later in red. They cover virtually the entire duration of Kerr's career:

1. 1901 - c.1939
2. 1907 - c.1946
3. 1915 - 1949
4. 1933 - 1955

2/ *Correspondence, 1908-1959

*Note that a small quantity of correspondence relating to pastorally-sensitive issues are closed, and will remain so under normal 100-year closure procedure. These comprise a file 1920-25, closed to 2025; two letters for 1928, closed to 2028; a file relating to one parish 1940-54, closed to 2054, a single item for 1947, closed to 2047, and finally a single item for 1955, closed to 2055. The remaining correspondence comprises the following:

1. 37 miscellaneous letters received by Kerr, with some draft responses in his own hand, organised chronologically.
[A detailed list of this section of correspondence is provided as appendix 1 below].
1908-1946; undated
2. 19 letters (including one publication) from Revd Henry Todd [Rector of Camlough 1900-42], The Rectory, Bessbrook, Co. Armagh on mostly theological and other high academic matters of debate
1916-29; one item undated

Described by J.B. Leslie as 'probably one of the best all-round scholars in the Church of Ireland' (*Armagh Clergy*, 1911, p.155) Todd clearly matched Kerr's breadth of intellect on a wide range of subjects, and is his most frequent correspondent, as the contents of this file reveal. Many of the early letters on file are taken up with their shared challenge on the published work of a liberal contemporary the Revd Dr Revd Francis Ryan Montgomery Hitchcock was Rector of Kinnity (Killaloe) 1903-23, and Examining Chaplain to the bishop of Killaloe 1916-23, and had formerly been Donnellan Lecture in Theology at Trinity College. His theories and in particular those published in his *Sapping the Foundation* (1918) were not shared by Kerr and Todd, and Todd produced his own published rebuttal, *Some Observations on Dr Hitchcock's Pamphlet* (1918), which remains on this file, and which is fleshed out by Todd's colourful and critical letters. Other subjects covered include the nature of training at Trinity College Dublin, Todd's

decision in December 1923 to give up 'the *Irish Churchman*' as he takes 'the *Gazette* weekly' and his support and endorsement of Kerr's writings.

3. 6 letters from Revd Dr Wagner, St Anne's Rectory, Strandhill, Sligo [Frederick William Ernest Wagner, Rector of Knocknarea (Elphin) 1916-27, 1920-22; undated

Initially the tone of the letters received from Wagner is friendly concerning his teaching commitments with the Faculty of Theology [presumably in Trinity College Dublin], but then it turns very bitter indeed when it appears Kerr has questioned his teaching ability.

On 4 January 1921, Wagner writes:

'You and I differ on this point, but do you consider that that entitles you to make all sorts of insinuations. Can you not realise that I may be just as conscientious and honest in my views as you would claim to be in yours?'

Then it appears that Kerr has penned something about Wagner in the *Gazette*, as his letter of complaint to the editor, dated 26 July 1922, remains in this file:

'My attention has been drawn to the article written by Boreas in your last issue, in the course of which he flings some ill natured jeers at me. It is a matter of indifference to me now; for I hope soon to exchange the Ministry for another profession'

This seems to confirm that by 1922, Kerr was back at the *Gazette* under the *nom de plum* of 'Boreas'. The offending article was a review of the book *The Virgin Conception and Virgin Birth of our Blessed Lord* in which Wagner had an article, and appears to question the legitimacy of Wagner's degrees, because they were awarded 'across the Atlantic'. Such jibes appear to have continued, for the latter, and the final straw comes a year later on 3 July 1923 when he wrote again to Kerr:

'I observe that you continue your malicious and spiteful persecution of me in the Church of Ireland Gazette. ... I gave up all theological study and writing, as a result of the abusiveness of yourself and your accomplice, the Editor of the Church of Ireland Gazette; but I assure you that I will not allow either of you to silence my pen in the sporting press; and if necessary, I will deal with both of you in its columns, and expose your campaign of deliberate and malicious persecution against me.'

According to the clerical succession list for Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, Wagner had transferred to the Church of England in the diocese of London by 1933, and was also editor of a London sporting paper. This file appears to suggest that Kerr helped to hound him out of Ireland.

4. 3 letters from M.J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, and 2 George Street, Wexford

This file contains three personal letters about the probate of the will of James H. Kerr, father of William (died 1920), and the strong family connections in county Wicklow, where Kerr seems to have inherited his father's house.
1920; 1928

5. 4 letters from Lord Londonderry, also styled Castlereagh, being Charles Vane-Tempest-Stewart (1878-1949) Minister for Education in NI, including a substantial 8-page typed letter outlining his thoughts on the future of education in Northern Ireland, sent from Windsor Castle, marked 'Private and Confidential' with particular reference to the current controversy over denominational schools. There is much about bringing over the teachers, and his profound belief that 'children would receive the atmosphere of the denomination in which they have been brought up'.
1925, 1930, 1944, undated

6. File of correspondence relating to queries raised about the additional fees charged by the Metropolitan Provincial Registrar, Revd Hector Love, in connection with Kerr's consecration and enthronement as the first bishop of Down and Dromore which were disputed. The file includes two letters from the Rt Revd Charles King Irwin, Bishop of Connor 1945-56 [who had been Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore until 1945] and various legal opinions provided through the Representative Church Body.
10 items
1945

7. Letter to 'Dear Dr Kerr' from Paul Blanshard, Rockbound, Boscobel, Jamaica, 30 March 1954, with related letter from the Managing Director of the publishing house relating to Blanshard's book *The Irish and Catholic Power* (Marshall, Morgan and Scott, London, 1954). Blanshard (1892-1980) was a controversial American author and outspoken critic of Roman Catholicism. Reporting on the reaction to his latest book, Blanshard comments that sales in the US are slow because 'there is not a great deal of interest in Ireland among American readers', but also admits the response of the Catholic press in the US 'has been bitter'. The letter from the publishing house to Kerr deals with his enquiry for a British edition of Blanshard's book, and also reports briefly on sales of Kerr's *Handbook on the Papacy* (Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd, London, 1950) (see below section 5/6) as being 'steady but not spectacular'. The file includes a dust jacket for Blanshard's book and a favourable review by Owen Sheehy Skeffington as published in *The Irish Times*, 16 and 17 April 1954
1954

3/ **Diaries, 1909-19; 1956-58**

This section consists of Kerr's daily diaries, in which he noted his reading, details of his sermon writing and other activities including visits. Unfortunately it is incomplete, but does at least give some insight to the daily routine of a young cleric in the early part of the 20th century and again during his final years following retirement when he remained in good health and active until just two years before his death in 1960. The entries in January 1958 include poignant reflections on his wife Amy's last days who died on 27 January 1958, after 58 years of happy marriage.

1. 1909
2. 1911
3. 1913
4. 1919
5. 1956
6. 1957
7. 1958
8. 1959
9. Loose, and parts only for the years 1910 and 1918 suggesting that this is only a small quantity of what was originally a much larger collection]

4/ **'Shebna the Scribe' articles as published in the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, 1910-1916, and *The Irish Churchman*, 1918-20**

'Shebna the Scribe' writing from 'Cave Hill' in Belfast was the *nom de plume* of the anonymous columnist who wrote virtually weekly pieces for the main Church of Ireland newspaper from 1910 to 1916. Titled 'the Epistles of Shebna', the columns were often controversial especially when they commented on political matters revealing both a northern and Unionist perspective on the evolving state of Ireland during this period. It would appear from the manner in which these extensive and complete set of 'Shebnas' have been arranged in Kerr's papers, with several envelopes and packages labelled in his hand with the word 'Shebnas', that he was in fact this particular 'Shebna the Scribe'. Presumably Kerr posted his copy to the *Gazette* publisher in Dublin each week, and then on receipt of the published paper, kept the printed versions for his records. An item in the run of correspondence reveals that his role terminated during 1916. Whether or not it was terminated on account of his increasing outspokenness or simply he because he had moved to a new parish, following his appointment to the incumbency of Seapatricks in 1915, is not revealed. What is interesting is that again if less frequently, he appears to have been commissioned to write on matters political, literary and poetical, under the same *nom de plume* for the Belfast-based *Irish Churchman* between 1918 and 1920, this later run covering his views on Jeremy Taylor, the state of Ireland, war poetry; literary matters.

1. Volume of miscellaneous cuttings of ‘The Epistles of Shebna the Scribe’ writing from ‘Cave Hill’ as published in the *Church of Ireland Gazette*.
1910-13
2. Loose run of copies of ‘The Epistles of Shebna the Scribe’ as published in the *Church of Ireland Gazette*.
1910-14
3. Loose run of copies of ‘The Epistles of Shebna the Scribe’ as published in the *Church of Ireland Gazette*.
1915-16
4. Occasional items of copies of ‘The Epistles of Shebna the Scribe ... of Slieve Croob’ as published in *The Irish Churchman*. Letters /2/1/8 and 9 as outlined in the appendix below appear to indicate that *The Irish Churchman* became rival and more outspoken newspaper that was unpopular with the hierarchy, in particular the Archbishop of Armagh.
1918-20
5. Three empty envelopes all labelled ‘Shebnas’ in Kerr’s hand, providing evidence of how he kept many of the copies together. Others were kept together in empty laundry bags which have been discarded.

5/ Other published writings, 1913-53

1. File containing three early items by Kerr published in Church of Ireland publications and *The Evening News* [Dublin newspaper] as follows: letter by W.S. Kerr, St Paul’s Parsonage, Belfast, to the editor of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* titled ‘The Imprecatory Psalms’, relating to the order of Psalms in the Book of Common Prayer, 16 May 1913; styled Shebna the Scribe of Cave Hill, ‘The Roman Catholic Press and the Society’s Work’, in the *Banner of Truth and Irish Missionary News*, October 1913, and W.S. Kerr B.D., Rector of St Paul’s Belfast’, ‘In Ulster Today: A Cromwell’s Army in Belfast’, being a reflection on the then peaceable but growing ‘white heat’ of the people against Home Rule, and justification of the mobilisation the Ulster volunteers, in *The Evening News*, 4 February 1914.
1913; 1914
2. Three files of materials relating to the publication of W. S. Kerr, *The Independence of the Church of Ireland* (SPCK, London, 1931), the main focus of which was to argue that St Patrick came to Ireland without the sanction of the Pope, as follows:
 1. Correspondence from various recipients of complimentary copies of same, including the Primate the Most Revd Charles D’Arcy; Bishops of Down and Cashel, Chancellor Otway Woodward, Prof. E.W. Gwynn, Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Revd Malcolm MacColl, Church of Scotland, and J.B. Hearne, New Ross, county Wexford, mostly acknowledging receipt and paying Kerr their compliments, but Hearne appears to challenge some of Kerr’s arguments.

8 September 1931-8 February 1932

2. Typescript copies of two letters sent to *The Times Literary Supplement* sent by Canon James Leslie and under the pseudonym of 'The Reviewer' with Leslie describing as 'unfair treatment of Archdeacon Kerr's book' and the counter-letter from the reviewer refuting Kerr's definitive claim that 'St Patrick did not grow up under Roman influences.

1931 [?]

3. Various press cuttings and published reviews of the work, both favourable and critical, and including two extensive articles by Prof. Eoin MacNeill, Prof. of Irish History at UCD, published in *The Standard* newspaper who slated Kerr's claims. Kerr's has annotated one as 'Piffle. Nothing in this'.

September 1931-March 1932, undated

3. 'The Official History of the Church of Ireland – A Protest' by the Dean of Belfast, being two copies of Kerr's article in which he took exception and rebutted the contribution of the Revd J.L. Gough Meissner to the 'long expected history of the Church of Ireland' [being the 3-volume *History of the Church of Ireland* (London, 1933) edited by W. A. Phillips], which in particular rejects Meissner's account of the life of St Patrick, and other aspects of the early Celtic Church. Meissner who was rector of Pomeroy in the diocese of Derry provided five of seven chapters in the first volume of the History, covering Pre-Patrician Christianity, the Mission of St Patrick, Constitution and Character of the Irish Church, the Mission Work and Expansion of Celtic Christianity and Services and Ritual of the Celtic Church.

12 January 1934

4. 'The Peace of Belfast – a protest' by the Dean of Belfast, in which Kerr remonstrates with the editor of the *Gazette* for an editorial piece on the Twelfth of July, for its one-sidedness, arguing in his opening paragraph that 'The Twelfth of July is generally a peaceful day'. The Editor publishes a response under Kerr's piece, which further challenges some of his arguments.

10 July 1936

5. Two reviews of Kerr's edited work: *History of Banbridge by Captain Richard Linn* (Banbridge, Chronicle Press, 1936), as published in the *Belfast Telegraph* and *Belfast Newsletter*.

June 1936

6. Two files of reviews and related correspondence relating to W.S. Kerr, *Handbook on the Papacy* (Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd, London, 1950) as follows:

1. File of correspondence relating to the protracted process of publishing the work which seems to indicate that originally the SPCK was to be Kerr's published, but following an exchange of correspondence in which they asked him to tone it down, so, as Noel

Davey the editorial secretary at SPCK House put it: 'not to cause unnecessary friction between the RCs and ourselves', Bishop Kerr sought other publishers during 1948, and whilst the full story is not on file, the letters from Marshall, Morgan and Scott from 1950 indicates that they secured the deal. Minor correction sheets, and later royalty payments complete the file.

1945-59

2. File of reviews and related correspondence which includes the review by Canon Charles Smyth of the Church of England, and subsequent letters concerning unfavourable review of the book as published in the *Church of England* newspaper, 1 December 1950, which declared that Dr Kerr to be 'an expert controversialist' but undermined the accuracy of his arguments. Kerr expresses his disappointment in a letter to the paper, and keeps the reply of the editor, the Revd C.O. Rhodes, defending his reviewer on file, together with further unfavourable comment by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork, Dr Daniel Colahan, as well as a letter of support from Canon Herbert Lindsey, rector of St Bartholomew's, Belfast.

1950-53

7. Typewritten draft letter addressed to 'The Editor, The Listener', challenging the theories of Professor Toynbee [Jocelyn M.C. Toynbee, eminent British scholar and expert on Roman artistic studies, and from 1951-62 Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University on the specific subject of St Peter visiting Rome.
Undated [1950s?]

6/ Lectures delivered, drafts, research notes on historical and theological subjects, c. 1916-47

In most instances, Kerr meticulous dating and titling most of the items in this section in the envelope in which he kept them safe helps us to approximately date when the materials were initially produced. As far as is possible the materials have been arranged chronologically as follows:

1. Research notes and lecture papers on 'Abraham Lincoln' of whom Kerr was clearly a great admirer. This lecture was first delivered at 'Glenure' [house name?] in 1916, and multiple times thereafter up to 1928.
c. 1916
2. Lecture entitled 'Siege of Derry', delivered at Banbridge in 1918, and subsequently up to 1933.
c. 1918
3. 'Swift general' being a lecture or presentation of some kind on the life of Jonathan Swift, delivered to the Woman Worker's Settlement at Banbridge, 2

July 1923, together with undated further extensive research notes on 'Swift as a letter writer'.

1923; undated

4. 'John Selden' [17th century English jurist and philosopher, expert on Jewish law]. Succession of lectures delivered at Newry, 6 July 1926; Warringstown 29 November 1927; Belfast Clerical Society, 1933; Church Reading Society, 9 December 1937.
1926
5. 'Walter Travers' [16th century , London cleric and lecturer], delivered at Trinity College Chapel, 1 June 1931, and at Newry Clerical Society, 14 July 1931.
1931
6. 'Confirmation'. File comprising extensive research notes and texts of sermons on confirmation both children and adults.
Undated [but envelope containing the materials is post marked 1932, so probably 1930s]
7. 'Comprehension and chaos' being a lecture on matters philosophical, first delivered to the Dungannon Clerical Meeting, 10 February 1938; and again at the Belfast Clerical Meeting, 30 March 1939
1938
8. 'New Light on the Judicious Hooker' [being Richard Hooker, Anglican theologian], first delivered to the Newry Clerical Meeting, 10 October 1940; and again at the Church Reading Society, 1942.
1940
9. 'Henry Leslie' [Bishop of Down and Connor 1635-61], first delivered to the Lurgan Clerical Society, 30 March 1943; and again at the Belfast Clerical Meeting, 19 March 1948 and at the Church Reading Society 19 September 1949.
1943
10. 'The Church and the Papacy', first delivered to the Lurgan Clerical Meeting, at the Downshire Arms Hotel, Banbridge, 26 March 1946
1946
11. Research notes entitled 'former occupants of Down rectories and the See House', which apparently formed the basis of a talk entitled 'Rectories in former days' but where it was delivered is not there. The file includes information about family history shared with him by Dean Henry Swanzy, the dean of Dromore and expert genealogist.
1947

7/ Notebooks containing further research notes, press cuttings and other materials on current affairs, history, theology, 1911-51

1. Notebook entitled 'Romanism' which includes press cuttings and handwritten notes, both revealing Kerr's ongoing scrutiny of matters to do with the Roman Catholic Church and the Vatican in particular. Includes press reports of papal declarations, writings, matters reported in the Roman Catholic Press, especially the *Irish Catholic*, such as infallibility, divorce, the Mass, toleration
1911-58
2. Volume entitled: 'Presbyterians and Persecution' being extensive handwritten text of what may be an early draft of Kerr's last publication *Who Persecuted? Episcopalians and Presbyterians in Ulster* (W. Erskine Mayne Ltd, Belfast, 1947), which was an effort to explore the sufferings of both co-Protestant religionists at the hands of the others, in order to forge better understanding and reconciliation between the Churches. The volume is marked 'W.S. Kerr, Vicarage, Ballywalter', so was probably commenced during his time as incumbent there, 1901-10. The volume contains the undated draft of an earlier letter to the editor of the *Dromore Weekly Times* defending Jeremy Taylor, as he did in his article published in the *Irish Churchman*, 22 August 1918 (see section 4/5 above).
Undated [probably 1901-10]
3. Notebook containing extensive quotations, humorous facts and stories, revealing Kerr's dry and witty sense of humour. Also contains some brief local history notes on places in the diocese of Leighlin, where Kerr's family originated.
Undated [1930s?]
4. Later notebook containing research notes on various historical matters, Protestantism, confirmation, and also including many quotations.
1940s-1958
5. Book of press cuttings on a wide range of matters that interested Kerr during his senior clerical career, opening with the burning issue of the mid-1920s (when the book appears to have been started) which was the education question, and campaign to protect denominational interests [this is further fleshed out in his correspondence from Lord Londonerry, see 2/5 above] and was a major source of difference with the Roman Catholic Church. There is also good coverage of political matters in Ulster and Northern Ireland, whilst the volume becomes increasingly personal, covering his own career and the achievements of his family. So we learn he was reported to have been in the running for the vacant see of Tuam (1931) and there was

widespread approval of his appointment as dean of Belfast (1933). There are many cuttings about the controversy over Orange parades in Belfast, during the late 1930s, whilst Kerr is clearly proud to add the photograph and announcement of the engagement of his only son George Kerr, District Inspector of the RUC to Mary Wells, barrister-at-law in 1939. There is further coverage of north-south relations during the 1930s and 1940s, and then his appointment as bishop of the new diocese of Down and Dromore (December 1944) a plea for underpaid pastors, after which the volume peters out.

1927-51

8/ Notes and writings on poetry, c. 1919-35

1. Lecture papers and related research notes entitled 'Irish Ballad Poetry' first delivered at Ballywalter [undated], again at Belfast [undated], then Banbridge and Hillsborough in 1919 and the YMCA in 1938. Includes the programme of entertainment organised at an official function held in Hillsborough Castle, 15 December 1919, during which Irish ballads and songs were included. Also includes lists of ballads relative to different subjects including 'customs', 'history', 'local life', 'exile' [including the Londonderry Air], 'love songs' and 'patriotic', and a list of songs by 'Tom Moore'.
Undated, c. 1919-39
2. Notebook of Kerr's favoured poems and quotations, both printed cuttings from sources and in his own hand, together with a selection of loose inserted poems, both handwritten and printed.
Undated [1920s, 30s?]
3. Lecture notes on 'Modern Poets/Poetry', delivered at Kilkeel Women's Settlement, 1924, Banbridge YMCA, 1925, Youth Guild, 1933, 1934
1924-35

9/ Printed materials relating to events in which Kerr was directly involved

1. St Patrick's Church Seapatrick, printed notices for 'Three Services for Men and Harvest Festival' services. To the men, the notice includes this message: 'Come to this short Mission of your own by your own Rector and friend. BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. W.S. Kerr'.
Undated [c. 1915-32]

2. Printed card from St Donard's parish church Belfast entitled 'Come to Church Campaign', which was to include sermons on 'The making of a Christian', at which the Dean of Belfast would preach.
Undated [after 1932]
3. Commemorative booklet, produced by the *Belfast Telegraph* newspaper, following the funeral of Lord Carson of Duncairn (1854-1935), entitled *Last Honours to Ulster's Leader. Lord Carson of Duncairn, enshrined in the cathedral of St Anne, Belfast, Saturday 26 October 1935*. The booklet includes minute detail of the funeral and committal which Kerr would have overseen in his capacity as Dean of Belfast.
1935
4. Order of service at the consecration of W. S. Kerr as Bishop of Down and Dromore, held at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, 25 January 1945.
1945
5. Printed booklet entitled 'The Bishop's Church Building Fund' being an appeal for funds to repair various churches damaged during the air-raids on Belfast in 1941, revealing Kerr's commitment to repair and rebuild those affected.
September 1947
6. Commemorative booklet, produced by Dromore Cathedral Parish, to celebrate the life of the late Revd Chancellor A[ndrew].W[illiam]. McGarvey M.A. incumbent of Dromore Cathedral Parish, 1928-48, who died on 18 January 1948. The booklet includes Bishop Kerr's 'Funeral Panegyric' in which he described Chancellor McGarvey as 'a faithful, consistent, untiring servant of the Lord'.
1948

10/ Miscellaneous printed materials

1. *The Irish Church Act, 1869*.
1870
2. File containing various prayers and devotions for children and other prayer cards; 'How to pray; guides; Girl's Friendly Society *Ten Minute Talks* (1912), the Mother's Union prayer books and various Mother's Union literature; *A Little Book for the Bereaved* (1942); *What Does Evangelism Really Mean* by the former bishop of Chelmsford, two un-used postcards.
27 items
1912-1948

3. Two odd press cuttings kept by Kerr as follows: 'The continuity of the Church of Ireland' by Canon Carr, as published in the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, January, 1900; 'House with a walled garden' being a humorous article on finding a house at an affordable rent, undated; 1900, undated
4. Printed letter from Revd W.K. Kenny, St John's Rectory, Newport [County Mayo] as published in letters to the editor of the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, 29 May 1931, concerning the 'Church of Rome's claims to St Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg, together with promotional official brochure produced by the Roman Catholic diocese of Clogher, concerning the consecration of St Patrick's Church, Lough Derg, on the Feast of St Patrick, 1931
5. Selection of mostly printed pamphlets, several by the Ulster Unionist Council on a range of matters concerning Irish Unionists from the period of the Second World War onwards, including Irish partition and Irish neutrality during the Second World War. Several were written by Prof. D[ouglas]. L[lloyd]. Savory, MP for Queen's University Belfast [until 1950] and later for the constituency of Antrim South, and Savory's contributions to various parliamentary debates on relations between Eire and the UK following the declaration of the Irish Republic in 1948; and the Royal Titles Bill of 1953 are included, as well as a later article on Irish Huguenots as published in the *Irish Churchman*, 1955. 1939-53
6. Collection of press cuttings being a reproduction of the 'Notices of the most important events connected with the County of Down, chronologically arranged and compiled by James Adair Pilson' in 1842, which begins with St Patrick's 'second landing in Ireland when he arrived at Down'. Undated

11/ Other miscellaneous materials, 1897- 1960

1. Envelope marked 'Daddy's confirmation card [not present], Deacon, Priest orders, Orange Sash', containing three certificates and his collarette as Grand Chaplain of the County Down Orange Order, and of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. The deacon's orders certificate is dated 13 June 1897; the priest's orders certificate 5 June 1898, and the consecration certificate as bishop of Down and Dromore, dated 27 March 1945. [The collaret is stored as a separate item]. 1897; 1898; 1945; undated

2. Small volume entitled 'Books Lent' being the people to whom he lent books from his library, which gives a good insight to his reading materials and people whom he may have guided in their reading
1924-1958
3. Address book, which judging by the extensive amendments may have been the only one used by Kerr during the course of his clerical and episcopal career. Includes personal contacts also
Undated
4. Two photographs of children, undated, most likely grand-children, one endorsed 'Mary at seven'.
Undated [1950s?]
5. Domestic receipts, arranged alphabetically by business, being the contents of a alphabetical file marked 'Recent Receipts 1958' which appears to have been organised by Bishop Kerr's daughter, Miss Dorothy Kerr, with whom he lived following his wife's death in 1958
1958-59
6. Two items of personal correspondence to his son Paul, signed 'Daddy', Ballymoney [where his daughter Phyllis resided] reporting his general state of health, his intention to stay on at Ballymoney, apologising for the deterioration of his hand-writing; yet also revealing his ever active mind requesting copies of the *Times Literary Supplement*, and commenting on fishing successes.
2 letters
7 May 1958; 17 June 1958
7. Handwritten notes 'In Memoriam' which look to have been written shortly before the bishop's death, judging by a very poor hand, on which Kerr jots the essential dates of his career, and at the end includes 'his devoted wife Amy b. 1875, d. 1958'. The same page has been typed and the year of Kerr's death in 1960 inserted in pencil, indicating it may have been copied for use on their gravestone. There are also two copies of an appreciation 'In the News W.S.K.', that appeared in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* following Kerr's death.
Undated [almost certainly 1960]

Appendix 1: Detailed list of correspondence MS 813/2/1

This section consists mainly of a run of 38 miscellaneous letters received by Kerr from a single correspondent (/2/1) between 1908 and 1946; and one undated item. In a couple of instances draft responses in his own hand remain on the file.

The correspondence is organised chronologically (in cases where there were more frequent correspondences with the one person, such letters have been grouped together as separate correspondence files (items /2/2-2/7) for which the description is provided in the main handlist above. Significantly few of the items here were received by Kerr once he became a bishop, and reflect earlier parts of his clerical and publishing career.

Indeed, the collection of miscellaneous items of correspondence forms but a small corpus of the likely correspondence he would have received during his life, and much of it is from well known public figures of the day (lay and clerical) which Kerr must have decided to keep as they meant something in particular to him, but also amusing, almost trivial and often critical items from parishioners and others mostly in relation to disputes at parish level which may have felt he needed to keep for the record. Whilst small, this collection provides a fascinating window to Kerr's thinking and the nuance of his identity as both Unionist and Church of Ireland cleric.

1. Part of letter from [James Owen Hannay] The Rectory, Westport, Co. Mayo, to 'My dear Mr Kerr'.
17 July 1908

Hannay was rector of Aughaval (Tuam) 1892-1913, and appears to have been a near contemporary of Kerr's, born 1865, ordained in 1888, and certainly matched him in intellectual capacity. He wrote and published extensively, mostly under the *nom de plume* of George A. Birmingham. This first one of two letters from him to Kerr reveals they are having an intellectual debate about two key matters and opens with 'It is well worth thinking out points of difference if its only for the value of putting out other people's point of view'. The two hot topics are comments on 'S.L. M's Ode to the B.P' which may be the Bishops of Ireland, for it follows with Hannay's scathing views on the attitude of the bishops of the Church of Ireland towards money, and secondly his views on imperialism which he disliked, 'and the British Empire in particular'. There are interesting comments about Ireland.

2. James O. Hannay, The Rectory, Westport, Co. Mayo, to 'Dear Mr Kerr'.
9 September 1908

Hannay thanks Kerr for his 'most kind view of my Spanish Gold' [published in 1915] a publication that has galvanised some 'reputation' among his fellow country men, and even the English about whom he 'was doubtful' which Hannay finds 'most satisfying'. There has only been one unfavourable review of it by 'one Scot'.

3. Edward Carson, 5 Eaton Place, London S.W. to 'Dear Mr Kerr', Rev W.S. Kerr, the Rectory , Banbridge, Co. Down, Ireland' with stamped and franked envelope.

19 December 1915

Carson confirms that Kerr's statement about his views on 'War Temperance legislation' in his letter is 'accurate' and that 'any suggestion that I am or have been hostile [to such legislation] is absolutely untrue'. He goes on to outline his role in the recent discussions in the House of Commons on the Immature Spirits Bill, 1915, and how he resents a statement made that 'Ireland's chief industry is the production of drink' which in his mind 'is an insult to those important industries in the North of Ireland which are at present doing so much for the production of ships and munitions so necessary for the defence of the realm'.

- 3a Printed and probably related item to the above letter entitled 'A Few Words on Temperance', being a leaflet produced by the Church of Ireland Temperance Society which has a lead feature to explore the question: 'Is Drink Ireland's Main Industry'

Undated [1915]

4. Note from John B. Armagh [Most Revd John Baptist Crozier, Archbishop of Armagh 1911-20] to 'My dear Mr Kerr'.

7 February 1916

Thanks Kerr for an article which he finds 'splendid' if 'far too flattering', so perhaps reference to a personal profile. There are also brief references to family members.

5. Edior S. Mills, Organist and Choirmaster [Seapatrick parish church], Banbridge, to 'Revd W. S. Kerr B.D, and churchwardens', addressed 'Revd Sir and Gentlemen'.

27 March 1916

In this brief letter Mills regrets to complain about the insolence he has received from the sexton [not named] in relation to lighting up the chancel for choir practice.

6. Letter from the Commissioners of National Education, Dublin, to the Reverend W. S. Kerr, B.D., Seapatrick Rectory, Banbridge, Co. Down.

16 November 1916

Brief letter reporting that a Higher Certificate has not been awarded to Mr Thomas Strange, Principal Teacher of the parish school.

7. Revd Burton Trimnell Turney, The Rectory, Newport, Co. Mayo, [Rector of Burrishoole (Tuam) 1909-21] to 'Dear Sir'.
22 November 1916

Thanking Kerr for his letter and following up how displeased he is with 'some of our bishops' who 'are secure and they don't seem to care a bit how their men under them suffer'. The root of his angst appears to be low income and heavy workload for parish clergy and the lack of support they receive from most, although not all, diocesan clergy. He describes how his efforts to start a correspondence in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* have come to nothing. The 14-page letter reveals Turney letting off steam and providing graphic information about life in a Church of Ireland rectory at this time, the difficulty of travelling around a large parish of 'over 100 square miles in extent', and a general lack of morale. He also reveals his thoughts on individual bishops of the day, most of whom get a swipe: 'Our bishops sit in glory and easy in motors, carriage and Palaces, big pay helps to eat and drink, and the poor devils who are the front line people may have only which the bishops servant wd turn up their noses at if they were asked to eat it'.

8. Warre B. Wells, Editor, *Church of Ireland Gazette*, 61 Middle Abbey Street Dublin, to 'My Dear Sir'.
9 December 1916

This letter reveals that Kerr was intending to resign his connection with the *Gazette*. The Shebna column [see section /4 below] did not continue after 1916, and so it seems that the fears expressed by Wells in this letter may have in fact been borne out afterwards, and it does not appear that Kerr continued to write his articles, and indeed his only contributions to the *Gazette* remaining on the file afterwards were letters of protest (see section /5).

Although Wells describes himself as 'imparted of Nationalist sympathies' he respected that Kerr was 'a Unionist of moderate views', and thus regarded that they were both 'in the same political category'. The letter goes on to reveal much about the dilemmas facing the Church of Ireland at this time to keep itself removed from politics and yet remain united. Wells repeats the view of the Archbishop of Dublin that 'the Home Rule Act being on the statue book, there is small prospect of getting if off again, and that if Home Rule is to come, I think that the interest of the Church, of the Unionist party, and of Ireland generally require that there should be no [absolute?] division between Ulster and the rest of Ireland'.

He urges Kerr to reconsider and that he might suspend his resignation 'pending an early meeting of the Board of Directors' when the meeting will reconsider the policy of the *Gazette* given the fact that 'a considerable section of Church opinion in Ulster is clearly out of sympathy with it'.

9. Pencil and hastily written ‘pencil line from the train’ by John B. Armagh [Most Revd John Baptist Crozier, Archbishop of Armagh 1911-20] to ‘My dear Mr Kerr’.
16 January 1917

The Primate refuses ‘under any conditions for his ‘photograph to appear in the Irish Churchman’. The context appears to be the manner in which the new commentary paper on church affairs conducts its business, with the archbishop regarding it as a ‘gross insult to the Primate of all Ireland’, adding that ‘Few things have given me more pain or caused me deeper anxiety for the future of our Church than this startling [?] new church paper...’. The rest of the letter reveals how the archbishop has ‘striven hard’ to meet the danger of ‘a growing and terribly serious hiatus between the Church in the North and South’, and ‘took strong steps in the matter’ in relation to the *Church of Ireland Gazette*: ‘I got the Directors to meet and take advice and they unanimously decided (so they told me) on a concise policy which has altered completely – as any one can see the tone of the Gazette for some weeks past. Wiser men than I see in the future the awful danger of divided aims and interests in one small Church of Ireland’. He concludes with his views on ‘the new paper’ as ‘the chief and most dangerous weapon to promote & foster and consolidate division’. Admitting that the issue ‘makes me almost despair. God help us and keep us from what would wreck our Church as no outward attack could, he ends saying he cannot say much more ‘but my Heart is very sore’.

10. William Wallace [curate of Sepatrick, Banbridge, Co. Down but who also served with the Church Army in France], to ‘My Lord Bishop’ [Rt. Revd Charles Frederick D’Arcy, Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore, 1911-19]. The letter must have been passed on by the bishop to Kerr.
1 May 1918

The letter relates to his formal resignation of his curacy in protest ‘due solely to the inaction of the Irish Bishops in not voluntarily organizing their dioceses for war service’. He fails to understand why the Irish bishops did not follow the action of English bishops ‘selecting the most suitable for service with the forces and other national work’.

The letter reveals that Wallace’s relationship ‘has always been of the happiest’ and he should be sorry to leave him, knowing ‘it is the work demanded of him in connection with the “Irish Churchman” that is the trouble, not the parish work itself’.

11. Letter from ‘A subscriber’, Banbridge, to ‘Dear Sir’.
20th or 22nd May 1918

This letter provides a graphic insight to cultural and social change in a provincial Irish town in the final year of the First World War. A protest from an anonymous woman parishioner to her rector, ‘to draw your attention to

this Ladies football club' it must have given Kerr some amusement for him to keep in his letter file alongside those from the Primate of All Ireland, and Sir Edward Carson. The language used therein provides another window on local cultural life. The correspondent warns:

'if you have not already heard about it under Heaven's what is this town going to turn to young Girls are going completely out of their latitude all winter going to dancing classes and Balls and spending their night from 12 o'clock until 5am in the morning out the roads with boys carrying on most racally'.

She concludes with a proposal for all the clergy of the town, 'even the R.C. clergy' so as 'to this put an end ... before it gets to [sic.] much of a catch'.

12. A. R. Ryder, The Rectory, Dunmurry, Belfast [Revd Alexander Roderick Ryder, rector of Drumbeg 1888-1918, died 1919] to 'Dear Mr Kerr'.
26 August 1918

Brief letter in which Ryder thanks Kerr for his 'very kind reference to me in your Diocesan Notes in the *Irish Churchman* in a recent issue', commenting he is the 'only one who has thought fit to encourage my work for 30 years in one parish'.

13. William Smyth, Huntly, Banbridge [probably of W. Smyth Linen merchants] to 'Dear Mr Kerr'
20 December 1918

Follows up last week's interview with details of the work record of a particular individual whom he describes as 'one of the worst workers and worst time keepers we ever had'.

14. Draft of letter in Kerr's hand, Rectory, to 'Dear Mr Smyth' [Appears to be the same Smyth as above]
12 February 1919

In this draft Kerr is defending four articles published in the [Banbridge] *Chronicle* and states he is shocked to learn that 'any one imagined I meant there were any Banbridge firms acting in humanly. No such intentions ever dawned on me'. However, he continues his articles were to 'counteract the Socialist interest which is more prevalent than I think you imagine'. The letter concludes with Kerr's almost trademark desire to disagree agreeably: 'Even though we have to disagree about certain things I would not like you to think me guilty of attacking any one anonymously'.

15. William Smyth, Huntly, Banbridge to 'Dear Mr Kerr'
15 February 1919

Smyth thanks Kerr for his letter [as above] and enclosed cutting which he carefully read, and assures him he now 'quite understood what you intended

your articles to show ... I am fully convinced that there is a far more socialist unrest in this neighbourhood than I had any notice of.

16. [?] Sutton, Ben Eden Park, Antrim Road, Belfast to 'My dear Kerr'
12 March 1919

Thanks Kerr for returning volume, which he says was most unnecessary to post commenting 'these are hard times for the majority of fixed incomes'. He then mentions he saw a recent 'Ey. Tel' [*Belfast Evening Telegraph*, forerunner of the *Belfast Telegraph*] 'and of course at once spotted the leader as yours'. He compliments Kerr's style of writing: 'you marshalled the salient details very concisely and readably but I see allowed precisely no embroidery'. He then goes on to discuss more generally the failings of 'mere journalism'.

17. Mrs Jane Frayer White [widow of James White, born in Scarva St, Banbridge in 1852; married Jane Fryar in Jun 1887 & emigrated to Chicago & ran a paper company; died Apr 1919] 527 Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, USA, to 'Dear Mr Kerr'.
20 July 1919

Thanking him for his kind letter of sympathy, on her husband's death, but promising in accordance with his 'lifelong wish' to ensure that a chime of bells is erected in Seapatrick parish church in memory of White's father [who was a former parishioner].

18. Henry S. O'Hara late bishop of Cashel, Laurel Hill, Coleraine [O'Hara served as bishop 1900-1919, having previously been Dean of Belfast for one year 1899-1900. He died in 1923], to 'Shebna the Scribe', 'Dear Mr Kerr'
6 September 1919

Hopes he is not wrong in attributing Kerr's 'most excellent letter in the *Irish Churchman* of last Thursday – the 2nd on the state of Ireland signed Shebna the Scribe', which the bishop regards as 'so well and wisely set forth – both as regards the true cause of the present trouble, and alas its only possible remedy'. As 'an old man' now in his 78th year and knowing Ireland north and south fairly well, O'Hara goes on to state that 'the only hope for the lasting peace and prosperity of our country consists in the continuation and strengthening of the legislative Union with Gt. Britain and what we have not had for the last 10 years – a government that will govern'. He hopes that Kerr's letter may be widely read throughout the Empire.

19. Letter signed simply 'Yours, Churchgoers', Banbridge to 'Dear Sir'.
October 1920

The letter objects to choice of music at a recent service, and the use of a female soloist and is uncompromising: 'our church should not be turned into a theatre or concert hall for the sake of pleasing a few of the so called aristocrats of Banbridge. Defending the girl members of the parish choir, it

warns 'don't insult them by bringing in strangers who are no use in the wide world'. It concludes hoping the matter will be resolved when the choir gets a new organist.

20. [Most Revd] Cosmo Lang, All Souls College, Oxford, [Archbishop of York] to 'My dear Sir' marked 'Private'
6 March 1922

Thanks Kerr for his letter and refers to a colleague Dr C.H.T. Lett and his suitability for a parish.

21. H.B. [Henry Biddall] Swanzy, The Vicarage, Newry, Co. Down [Dean of Dromore and Vicar of Newry 1914- 31] to 'My dear Kerr'
19 October 1922

Refers to a recent event in Newry – probably a historical lecture or meeting of some kind, in which he and the incumbent of St Patrick's [the second parish church in Newry], the Revd Samuel Melville Hankey, 1920-34 had a public, but it transpires not too acrimonious spat about which of them [Hankey or Swanzy] has the right to claim to be successor of the old vicars of Newry, and whether or not some of the relics in St Mary's church should not be in St Patrick's'. Swanzy explains that 'in view of the presence of the Presbyterians I must reply, & that the only way to do it was in the same vein of humour as his'.

The spat has clearly become more widely talked about [in the local press], as Swanzy finds himself famous, and recounts it and what was said in considerable, minute detail.

22. Wm Wallace, 35 Eglinton St, Portrush [Co. Antrim] to 'Mr dear Canon'.
6 February 1923

Formerly Kerr's curate in Banbrige, Wallace has served as curate of Ballywillan (Connor) since 1919 [see item /10 above], but as this letter makes clear is about to depart for a parish in the diocese of Hereford, in the Church of England. He complains of having 'not "fitted in" with things here recently, and laments his low salary. He has decided to go to the diocese of Hereford, 'where the Bishop is a Lib. Evang. He laments that his cousin, the late Dean Webster of the Chapel Royal in Dublin insisted that he took 'the full two years course for Div. Text' for 'in this diocese [Connor] I could have been two years higher standing by not doing so.

He thanks Kerr for sending a reference to England, and remains 'grateful for the kindness that I have ever received from Mrs Kerr and yourself.

23. H.B. [Henry Biddall] Swanzy, The Vicarage, Newry, Co. Down [Dean of Dromore and Vicar of Newry 1914- 31] to 'My dear Kerr'
15 February 1923

Brief letter giving some family information about the Revd Robert Hignbotham, curate of Derry cathedral, which concludes with this comment: 'I visited the Grand Master's Lodge last week. The Dublin Hall is certainly very magnificent'.

24. H. MacManaway, Richmount Glebe, Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone [Very Revd Hugh MacManaway, rector of Enniskillen and dean of Clogher 1923-50
5 x 1923

Commends Kerr's writing: 'There is no man in Ireland to-day who has greater admiration for you than I have...Like hundreds of others I read week by week every word you write in C.I.G. [*Church of Ireland Gazette*]. How in the world do you make time to do it!'. Thanks Kerr for his kind wishes on his new appointment to Enniskillen, which is sought after by at least 20 men in the diocese and clearly lucrative, MacManaway adding: 'worth at present £500 a year, free house and grass for two cows'.

25. We. Ferris Reg. R.B.P no 131, 5 Underwood Terrace, Banbridge, to 'Dear Sir Knt and Bro.'
1 September 1924.

This letter confirms that Kerr was a member of the Black Preceptory, lodge no. 131 Mount Carmel, in Banbridge. He is invited to attend the regular meeting on 9th September and 'explain your reasons for identifying yourself with Garden Fete in connection with Roman Catholic Church'.

26. Sarah Woods, Glenbrian, Howth Road, Co. Dublin, to 'Dear Canon Kerr'
26 October 1926

Declaring herself soon to be 88, she takes the liberty and writes with concern about the neglected state of the graveyard in Seapatrick.

27. John Robert Stroyan, Park Hill, Sunningdale, Berks] to 'Dear Chancellor Kerr'
22 October 1928

Thanks Kerr for his kind letter and outlines his recent travels through Europe. His family are all well and is glad to hear that Kerr's are also.

28. Robert Hayes Jr, Newry Road, Banbridge, to 'Revd Canon Kerr, the Rectory, Revd Sir
3 January 1929

Another disgruntled parishioner, who admits letter writing is not his forte. And is vexed by seating arrangements in the church. He asks why he has been 'shifted from pillar to post (In God's House)'.

29. George Russell, *The Irish Statesman*, Editorial Office, 84 Merrion Square, Dublin to 'Dear Cannon Kerr'

The Irish Statesman incorporated *The Irish Homestead* and was a weekly journal promoting the view of the Irish Dominion League. Its first editor was Warre B. Wells, formerly editor of the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, and after the League became defunct, when it merged with *The Irish Homestead* George Russell, writer, artist, mystic and Irish nationalist, became editor. In this letter whilst he states that he sympathises with Kerr the matters concerning him are 'religious' and unsuitable for publication in the *Irish Statesman*. Russell goes on to say there are many Protestants who are good Irishmen, and there is no need to 'go back to Pope Adrian to revive controversies'. Thus, he rebuts what appears to have been a solicitation by Kerr to write for the paper:

'I need to keep good humour on the papers I edit. As it is I have many good Catholics who write for me and approve of our line. If I allowed angry responses continuously to appear I would undo all the good I am doing to promote good feeling'.

30. J. Milne Barbour, Hilden, Lisburn, to 'Dear Canon Kerr'
3 December 1929

Letter from one of the parochial nominators for the parish of Lambeg inviting Kerr to a meeting at the Office of the Linen Thread Co. Ltd. [Kerr must thus have been approached for this position, but either didn't get it or decided not to take it].

31. [?] Williamson, Sandown Park, Knock, Belfast to 'The Most Revd The Archbishop of Dromore, Banbridge, C. Patrick.'
2 February 1930

Whimsical letter referring to an article in *The Whig* Feb 1st [which must incorrectly have announced Kerr's appointment as an Archbishop] the content of which shows Kerr's respected position as defender of Protestantism. It opens 'May it please your Grace' congratulating Kerr on his appointment 'to the Archdeaconry of Dromore ... I see you have been created an Archbishop – I presume as a reward for Defence of the Faith against Catholic Readers – not lay readers. Long may you reign!'

32. Unsigned letter from Tullylish Rectory, Gilford, Co. Down addressed to 'Dear Oculus Episcopi' [Eye of the Bishop]
8 February 1930

A brief letter on politics and church life which comments: 'Of course I know that the I.C. [Irish Church] does not offer a warm welcome to some shades of political thought, and like the O'Mahony, they have ceased to avail themselves of the ministrations of the Nat. Church'.

33. Frederick McNeice, The Rectory, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim to 'My dear Kerr'
5 May 1931

McNeice as rector of Carrickfergus since 1908 and archdeacon of Connor since 1926, has just been appointed bishop of Cashel, Waterford of Lismore and in this letter responds to Kerr's 'kind and helpful letter'. He appreciates Kerr's good wishes, adding that he has been 'well over thirty years ... in this diocese & have striven to do something for the Church' He remembers conversations with Kerr when they were curates, and commends Kerr for playing 'a fine part in the life of the Church' with 'ability and scholarship'. A PS refers to McNeice's little book which is soon ready [*The Church in Belfast 1778-1931* (1931)] telling Kerr 'you come into it in connection with St Paul's'.

34. Maurice Healy, 72 Courtifeld Gardens, London S.W. 5 to 'My dear Mr Dean'
22 September 1939

The writer of this letter was the son of the well-known solicitor Maurice Healy and nephew of Timothy Michael Healy (first Governor-General of the Irish Free State). After serving in the First World War, Healy chose to practice at the English Bar and had a distinguished legal career until his premature death in 1943. This long and detailed letter reveals Healy's distinctive sense of identity; his friendship with 'Protestants and Unionists' and his

'greatest admiration and affection for the Southern Unionists, so well exemplified by Miss Sommerville and her ever-to-be lamented cousin, Miss Violet Martin; and any man who desires a faithful picture of the Ireland that I first loved can find it in their fascinating pages'.

After 20 years residence in England, Healy is satisfied:

'that they are a great and generous people, and that it is as reasonable to attack the English people for what occurred in Ireland as it would be to blame the German people for what Hitler has done'.

There are telling comments and reminiscences about various characters in Irish political and legal life including Mr Justice William O'Brien; Sir William Moore; Dudley White K.C., Joseph O'Connor; Edward Carson; Desmond Chambers and others.

35. Fred G. Gibson, Irish Mission, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Church House, Belfast to 'Dear Dean'
7 July 1944

Refers to source of quotation from the *Officiorum ac Muerum* which he says he took from an article on 'Censorship' in *The Catholic Encyclopaedia*.

36. J.E.P., [Rt. Revd Joseph Irvine Peacocke, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe 1916-45], Dunderry, Ballycastle [Co. Antrim]
23 March 1946

This is the only item of correspondence on file to Kerr as bishop from another bishop. Peacocke has just retired as bishop, and is writing about his 'little book' just published by Church of Ireland Printing with support from A.P.C.K. who 'would not publish it on their own'. [The book is *Peacocke of Derry and Raphoe: An Autobiographical Sketch* (1946)]. Peacocke continues that he appears on the front cover as he was at his consecration, commenting 'one may as well look as decent as possible, but the real cause of it was because that was the only photo of myself I possessed!'

He is glad to see Kerr 'hobnobbing with royalty', and hopes he will shake George VI's hand at the Lambeth Conference time in 1948'. He concludes that he is 'in the shade now' and 'does not hear much news now'.

37. Henry Head, Greenways, Chippenham, Wilts, to 'My dear Kerr'
Undated

This may have been written by the eminent neurologist, Sir Henry Head, as this is a detailed and complex letter about thought processes, aspects of father-child psychology and spiritual beliefs.