

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 1 (1890).

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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

MR L. SIMMONS' SPECIAL MISSION TO  
THE VATICAN

RELATIVE TO

RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

IN THE

ISLAND OF MALTA.



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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
May 1890.*

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Correspondence respecting Sir L. Simmons' Special Mission to  
the Vatican relative to Religious Questions in the Island of  
Malta.

No. 1.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 1, 1889.*

I HAVE to inform you that questions have arisen affecting the internal government of the Island of Malta, in respect to which it is necessary to enter into communication with the highest ecclesiastical authorities at Rome, and that Her Majesty has been pleased, in view of your complete familiarity with the circumstances of that dependency, to select you as her Representative for that purpose.

The engagements under which Her Majesty's Government have come for the maintenance of the Roman Catholic religion in that island, and for the enforcement of the canon law, make it a matter of serious importance that a full understanding should be established between the secular authorities and the heads of the Church to which the inhabitants of the island are attached, and that no cause of difference should be allowed to arise which should place even partially the influence of the two Powers on the minds of the population in antagonism to each other.

Your own personal authority, and the intimate acquaintance which you acquired as Governor with the affairs of the island, will enable you to give due weight to the considerations which, in the political as well as the religious interests of the people of Malta, it is necessary you should bring to the attention of the Holy See.

There are, as you are aware, several Maltese questions of primary importance, as well as others of less urgency on which I need not now enlarge, as to which a clear and thorough understanding with the Vatican would be of much advantage to all concerned. Among these I may refer, in the first place, to the course to be followed on the occurrence of a vacancy in the Bishoprics of Malta or Gozo, and in certain other high ecclesiastical offices. The great power of the principal clerical functionaries in Malta to influence the mass of the people renders it most essential that in their selection the Holy See should keep prominently in view the value of securing the services of persons actuated by a friendly disposition towards this country, and prepared to support in all proper ways the reasonable directions of the Local Government.

Her Majesty's Government cordially recognize the attention which has been paid by the Holy See to their representations from time to time made on this subject; but it is, nevertheless, one in regard to which there would be much benefit from a fuller examination of the relations between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in Malta, and of the principles by which the selection of the persons to be intrusted with the higher religious offices should be governed.

A second subject, appearing to call for careful consideration, is the expediency of such alteration in the canon law and civil legislation, and such revision of the formal procedure as may be necessary in order to remove all questions as to the full validity of marriages properly contracted in Malta; and also the course that should be established in respect of mixed marriages and dispensations, and other similar cases. It would be useful to define the manner in which effect should be given to any decisions of the Holy See on appeals referred to it.

It would again be of much value to secure in the most convenient way some definite provisions for the education in the English language of those who will officiate as clergy in Malta, and for instructing them as to the conditions under which the island is governed.

There are various other topics of a minor character and yet of substantive interest which you may find occasion to bring under notice during your communications with the Vatican. Amongst these I may refer:—



To the immigration of Italian and other foreign ecclesiastics, who are independent of the Bishop, and their instalment in religious foundations and monasteries ;

To the administration and up-keep of St. John's and other churches ; and

The burials in country churches.

It is desirable that these and similar questions should be discussed with a view both to the establishment of a fuller understanding than at present exists in Malta in regard to them, and to the continued maintenance of those satisfactory relations which have happily subsisted between the island Government and the Holy See ; and I shall readily attend to any suggestions which you may offer respecting the form in which you should introduce such subjects to consideration.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 2.

*Extract from the "London Gazette" of October 29, 1889.*

*Foreign Office, October 23, 1889.*

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint General Sir John Lintorn Arabin Simmons, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., to be Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Holiness the Pope, on a Special Mission with reference to questions of jurisdiction under the Royal Proclamation providing for the existing establishment of religion in the Island of Malta.

No. 3.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, November 26, 1889.*

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that I arrived here on the 15th instant, and was admitted to an audience with His Holiness the Pope on the 23rd, when I addressed His Holiness in French, in the terms of which the following is a translation :—

"Holy Father,

"In presenting to your Holiness this letter from my Sovereign the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, I am commanded by Her Majesty to renew to your Holiness the assurance of her sincere friendship, and of the unfeigned respect and esteem which Her Majesty entertains for the person and character of your Holiness.

"Her Majesty's Government are deeply impressed with the conviction that it is in the political as well as the religious interest of the inhabitants of Malta, as also to the advantage of all concerned, that there should be a clear and thorough understanding between your Holiness and Her Majesty relative to all questions in which the Church and Government in that island are mutually interested.

"Having been intrusted by Her Majesty to treat concerning these questions, I have to assure your Holiness that it will be my earnest endeavour to perform the duty which devolves upon me in such manner as shall give satisfaction to your Holiness, and at the same time tend to the continued maintenance of that good-will which happily subsists between your Holiness and Her Majesty, and those satisfactory relations which have always prevailed between the Government of the Island of Malta and the Holy See.

"I also take this opportunity of expressing to your Holiness my most sincere thanks for your kindness in doing me the honour of sending me a medal commemorative of your Jubilee."

His Holiness, at the public audience at which I was received, replied in a speech which lasted not less than ten minutes, in which he expressed his desire that all Her Majesty's subjects should perform their duties to their Sovereign loyally and faithfully, and should respect the law, seeing that the Church in the Queen's vast dominions was free and unfettered, and that liberty prevailed throughout in an admirable manner. In regard to this liberty he mentioned that during the Duke of Norfolk's mission he had publicly spoken in this sense, and he desired to repeat what he then said upon the subject. He assured me that, in dealing with the matters which had to be treated by my mission, I should find that the Holy See will be prepared to do its utmost to satisfy the Queen, and expressed his opinion that the best way of settling questions which involved political



as well as religious interests is by diplomatic agency. He continued by expressing his hope that I would be a faithful interpreter of his sincere friendship to Her Majesty the Queen, and his great desire that her reign might be long and her people prosperous.

I append a short summary of the speech of His Holiness, which has been kindly furnished to me by Cardinal Rampolla, his Secretary of State.

Nothing could be more cordial than the reception accorded to me by His Holiness, and the manner in which he expressed himself in the presence of the officers of his household.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

#### Inclosure in No. 3.

##### *Summary of the Speech of His Holiness the Pope.*

EN réponse au discours prononcé par son Excellence M. l'Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire d'Angleterre, le Saint-Père a exprimé d'abord sa pleine satisfaction pour le choix de la digne personne à laquelle la Reine et le Gouvernement Anglais viennent de confier une si noble mission. Sa Sainteté a rappelé ensuite le bien que son Excellence, comme Gouverneur de Malte, a fait aux Catholiques de l'île, et a manifesté la confiance de le voir expliquer à Rome, en sa qualité de Ministre accrédité près le Saint-Siège, le même esprit d'équité et de sagesse.

Puis le Saint-Père a fait relever la grande importance qu'il attache au maintien des relations amicales avec le Gouvernement d'Angleterre, en faisant ressortir les avantages réciproques qu'on doit espérer de ces relations pour les affaires qui se rapportent aux sujets Catholiques de Sa Majesté la Reine.

Il a parlé aussi de la soumission et de l'obéissance que ces sujets prêtent aux lois civiles; et comme il avait fait dans une semblable occasion au temps de son Jubilé Sacerdotal, il s'est réjoui de la liberté et de la paix accordées aux fidèles dans tous les vastes domaines de l'Empire Britannique.

Il a terminé son discours en témoignant les sentiments de la plus sincère sympathie pour M. le Ministre, et en faisant des vœux pour la prospérité et la gloire de Sa Majesté la Reine.

#### (Translation.)

IN reply to a speech spoken by his Excellency the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of England, His Holiness first of all expressed his entire satisfaction at the choice which the Queen and her Government had made in confiding to so worthy a person such a noble mission. His Holiness then referred to the benefits which his Excellency, as Governor of Malta, had conferred upon the Catholics of that island, and he manifested his confidence in seeing him display at Rome, in his capacity of the accredited Minister to the Holy See, the same spirit of equity and of wisdom.

The Holy Father then expressed the great importance which he attached to the maintenance of friendly relations with the Government of England, dwelling upon the reciprocal advantages which should be expected from these relations with respect to the affairs which refer to the Catholic subjects of Her Majesty the Queen.

He spoke also of the submission and obedience which these subjects give to the civil laws, and as he had done upon a similar occasion at the time of his Sacerdotal Jubilee, he rejoiced in the liberty and peace granted to the faithful in all the vast dominions of the British Empire.

He concluded his speech by testifying the sentiments of the most sincere sympathy for the Minister, and expressing his earnest desire for the prosperity of Her Majesty the Queen.

#### No. 4.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)*

(Extract.)

Rome, November 26, 1889.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that the public audience referred to in my despatch of even date having come to an end, His Holiness dismissed his household and granted me a private audience, at which I presented to him Dr. Carbone and Captain Ross of Bladensburg.



His Holiness then asked whether my mission concerned Malta only, when I replied that my instructions limited my mission to the affairs of that island.

No. 5.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)*

(Extract.)

*Rome, December 10, 1889.*

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that I have just returned from an interview with Cardinal Rampolla, at which most of the questions I have to treat were freely discussed.

As the messenger leaves Rome this afternoon I have not time to write any details, but I may say generally that there appears to be a desire on the part of the Vatican to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government, notwithstanding difficulties of principle and procedure which the Cardinal says require most careful investigation and study.

No. 6.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)*

(Extract.)

*Rome, December 12, 1889.*

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that I have had several interviews with Cardinal Rampolla, in which I have introduced the principal questions referred to in your Lordship's instructions. I inclose a translation of a short Memorandum on each question with which Cardinal Rampolla requested that I should furnish him.

Long conversations and explanations have ensued, from which I gather that the whole of the questions from the point of view of the Roman Catholic Church are more or less embarrassing, and will require study in the Congregations upon which they depend, so that I fear no very speedy results are to be anticipated.

First, as to the method to be pursued in the election of Bishops, the Cardinal informed me that he hoped no difficulties would arise, but that it might be advisable to retain the power of appointing an ecclesiastic, who might not be a Maltese, on special occasions when there might be a difficulty of finding a fit person of Maltese origin. I pointed out that the Maltese, being, as a rule, poor, hold very much to the appointment of Bishop, which is the most lucrative post in the island, being held by a Maltese, and that it would cause much dissatisfaction if an ecclesiastic were appointed who was not a Maltese; also that few of the better classes enter the priesthood, and the possibility of a stranger being named would remove one of the inducements for such young men to become priests. The Cardinal seemed satisfied with the objection thus taken.

As to the legalization of marriages, both parties to which are non-Roman Catholics, I do not anticipate much difficulty in obtaining the concurrence of the Holy See, but the question of mixed marriages is more complex, and one in which I do not expect any great concession. The Cardinal is, however, evidently impressed with the desirability of prohibiting such marriages if the parties renounce, or simulate renouncement of, the doctrines of the Church, and would, I think, be glad if he could discover some method of partially removing the obstacles in the way of these marriages with a view to the prevention of simulated changes of religion.

The question of the education of the priesthood in the English language, and of instructing them as to the conditions under which the island is governed, was discussed at great length. In order that the Cardinal might be fully aware of the state of education of the priesthood, I gave him confidentially a copy of an extract from the last Report of the Director of Education in Malta, and of the remarks of the Senate of the University thereon, also a copy of the Ordinance now in force for the Government of the University, as I considered it desirable he should be fully acquainted with the deplorable condition of the priesthood as regards education, which had often been the subject of conversation between the Bishop of Malta and myself during my stay in the island.

The Cardinal seemed surprised at the state of ignorance of the priesthood, and expressed an opinion that measures must be taken to improve their education, when I stated that the Government did not wish to interfere with the religious education of the priesthood, but urged upon him that any measures which might be taken for that purpose should include a provision for their instruction in the English language, and in the conditions under which the island is governed.

The Cardinal, in the course of the conversation, spoke of the inability of the Church



to place the Seminary on a proper footing in consequence of want of funds, and suggested that the Government should give up certain small benefices, now in the gift of the Governor, and also grant the money now expended by the Government on the Faculty of Theology in the University. I made no reply to the former, but am of opinion that if the Vatican take effective measures for the introduction of English education, which, however, can only be done gradually, no harm would result from giving up these benefices, which are generally worth from 10*l.* to 15*l.* a-year, as they fall vacant. As to handing over the amount now expended on the Faculty of Theology in the University, I pointed out that I thought such a proposition would not be well received in the island, as, by so doing, the students in the University would be deprived of all religious education, and that it would appear to be more desirable to encourage students to attend the Faculty of Theology in the University.

I also gave the Cardinal a short Memorandum on the subject of the immigration into Malta of foreign priests, saying that although the Government could take no steps themselves to prevent such immigration, the Maltese, and especially the priests, who are very poor, many of them, even the Professors in the Seminary, having only 8*l.* or 10*l.* a-year, object most strongly, saying that these foreigners "eat Maltese bread." The Cardinal said that owing to the division of the religious Orders into provinces, it might be difficult to interfere, but he would consider what could be done.

The subject of the intramural burials in the country districts was then discussed, when he said that the Bishop could use his authority to assist the Government in preventing them. It was pointed out to him that opposition would be silenced by an expression of opinion from Rome. It was explained to him that legislation would be necessary to effect this object.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

*Memorandum respecting the Appointment of Bishops.*

ON the occurrence, or probable occurrence, of a vacancy in either the Bishopric of Malta or Gozo, the fact should be communicated by Her Majesty's Government officially to the ecclesiastical authorities at Rome.

An understanding should be come to confidentially as to the nomination by His Holiness of a successor.

A similar understanding should be come to in the event of the necessity of appointing an Assistant or Coadjutor Bishop to administer either diocese.

A confidential communication should then be addressed to the ecclesiastical authorities, with an expression of satisfaction at the appointment, or a desire that the Pope should elect another person.

The Papal authorities, after announcing the appointment of the nominee who has been agreed upon to Her Majesty's Government officially, should then issue the Bull of Appointment; and

Her Majesty's Government should then publish their concurrence in the appointment, thereby authorizing the assumption by the new Bishop of the temporalities of his See.

An understanding has been come to with the Vatican that the Bishops must, in all cases, be Maltese subjects of Her Majesty. The majority of the Maltese are very earnest in their desire to maintain this privilege, and it might therefore be advisable that it should be clearly laid down.

It might also, while discussing the arrangements as to the nomination of Bishops, be advisable to declare, similarly to what is embodied in the Concordat with Austria, that communications between the Bishops, clergy, and people, and the Holy See, in spiritual matters and ecclesiastical affairs, will not be dependent on the necessity of demanding the consent of Her Majesty's Government, but will be perfectly free; and to ask the Papal authorities that all Rescripts which carry with them any public result, or are to be made public, shall be communicated simultaneously to Her Majesty's Government.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

*Memorandum respecting Marriages.*

THE law of Malta in regard to the forms necessary to the validity of a marriage, even as a contract, is the Canon Law, and in that respect the Canon Law is also the Civil Law of Malta.





A doubt has, in consequence, arisen whether marriages celebrated in Malta by other than Roman Catholic priests are valid.

This state of things calls for legislative interference, and the English Government sees the necessity of making effectual provisions for giving validity to marriages celebrated heretofore by formalities which the parties believed to be binding, and for defining the mode of celebrating marriages in cases when one or both of the parties are not members of the Roman Catholic Church. It is, however, the earnest desire of the Government that any such legislation should have the concurrence of the Holy See.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

*Memorandum respecting Education and use of the English Language.*

HER Majesty's Government consider it would be of much value if provision could be made in a convenient form for the education in the English language of those who will officiate as clergy in Malta, and for instructing them as to the conditions under which the island is governed. An extract from the Report of the Director of Education in Malta has been placed in the hands of your Eminence, which shows the state of education for candidates for the priesthood in Malta. The present Bishop is, no doubt, taking measures to improve the condition of the Seminaries as regards education, but it is a source of regret to the Government of Malta that so little use is made of the Theological Faculty in the University, and that the examinations for the priesthood of pupils educated in the Seminaries have been of such a character that no encouragement is given to such pupils to follow the Faculties of the Arts and Sciences in the University.

The University is entirely under the direction of a Senate, of which three Catholic priests are members, and is conducted under the immediate supervision of the Director of Education, who, with all the Professors, is of the Catholic Communion. A full Report of the working of the University and of all changes in its organization is made yearly by the Director, and with any comments the Senate may make thereon, is published officially, and thus made known to the Bishop and clergy. The instruction in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in the University is partly in English and partly in Italian, and English history forms part of the course. University degrees may be conferred without attendance at the University lectures on pupils educated either in the Seminaries of Malta or Gozo, or in the College of St. Ignatius, which is conducted by English Fathers of the Society of Jesus. Such being the state of education in the island, your Eminence, I am sure, will be of opinion that it is most desirable, in the interest of the Church and people, that some measures should be taken for its improvement.

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

*Memorandum respecting the Immigration of Foreign Ecclesiastics.*

MUCH dissatisfaction is felt by the Maltese in consequence of the immigration of foreign ecclesiastics who are independent of the Bishop and their instalment in religious foundations and monasteries. The common observation is that, without conferring any benefit on the island, they "eat Maltese bread."

Inclosure 5 in No. 6.

*Memorandum respecting the Prohibition of Intramural Burials.*

IT is a common practice in the country parishes outside the chief towns of the island to inter the dead underneath the churches. Some of these country parishes include small towns ranging in population up to 6,000. The practice, therefore, must be attended with results which are injurious to health. The prejudices of the country people are very much opposed to interment outside the churches. The Government are willing to provide proper cemeteries, as has been done for the capital and suburbs, but feel that any Law prohibiting intramural burials in the country districts would be regarded as an interference with the religion of the people. The Government will be glad, therefore, of an expression of opinion of the Holy See on this subject.

Legislation will be necessary to prohibit intramural burials.



*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)*

(Extract.)

*Rome, December 23, 1889.*

IN discussing the subject of the education in the English language of those who will officiate as clergy in Malta, and of their instruction as to the condition under which the island is governed, I informed Cardinal Rampolla, generally, of the sadly ignorant state of the priesthood in the island; and, in order that he might not be under any misapprehension on the subject, I gave him a copy of the last Report of the Director of Education in Malta, and of the observations of the Senate of the University thereon, which, with what I was able from my own experience in Malta to tell him on the subject, appeared to satisfy him that the condition of the priesthood, as regards education, requires investigation, and that it must be placed upon a better footing. I informed the Cardinal that I felt assured, from the communications I had had with the present Bishop (Pace), when Governor and since, that he would do his best to improve the condition of the Seminary, but that he needed support from Rome, and that I hoped every encouragement would be given to him in his efforts, but I urged the Cardinal to write to him to delay making his final arrangements until after the discussion of the question here in Rome.

In the course of conversation I had stated that I had found parish priests in Malta who were so ignorant that they scarcely knew of the existence of the Council of Government, and therefore looked to the Governor for every little local improvement in their parishes, which are in some cases small towns with populations varying up to 6,000 inhabitants, instead of looking to their representatives in the Council; that, as a rule, the country clergy speak no English, and only indifferent Italian, and as they are almost the only class living among the people to whom they can look for instruction, it was very desirable that their ideas should be enlarged, which could only be done by improving their education.

The Cardinal fully concurred in this view, but stated that the necessary changes must be introduced by degrees, and that every endeavour would be made to meet the wishes of the Government; but he said there might be some difficulty in finding Maltese subjects of Her Majesty to place in charge of, and as teachers in, the Seminary, a fact in which I could not do otherwise than concur, and hence the necessity of getting extraneous aid.

I pointed out that the introduction of Italians would not meet with the general approval of the Maltese, and that it would be fatal to the instruction in English, because the priests, if conversant with Italian, would have no object in encouraging the peasants to learn English, the knowledge of which is very essential to their welfare, there being about 20,000 of the inhabitants dependent for their livelihood upon the work they do in British ships, besides numerous others who are employed in different ways in British employ, and ignorance of the language is also an obstacle to their emigration to British Colonies.

In an audience I have since had with the Pope, His Holiness expressed a very decided opinion as to the necessity of finding some means for improving the condition of the clergy as regards education, and his desire to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government; but I have been most careful to explain, both to His Holiness and to the Cardinal, that Her Majesty's Government cannot and do not wish to interfere in any way with the religious education of the clergy; but only desire that in any change that might be made in the organization of the Seminary the object should be kept in view of introducing English so far as is consistent with their ecclesiastical studies.

In a subsequent interview with the Cardinal I suggested, for his consideration, whether, if it were necessary to employ Jesuit Fathers in the Seminary, Malta could not be transferred from the Sicilian to the English province of the Society of Jesus, in which case English priests, or Maltese educated in English, might be employed under their guidance in the Seminary. The Cardinal said the whole question is involved in difficulties, and especially so because, owing to the state of the Church in Italy, the Fraternity of Jesuits in the Sicilian Province regard Malta as a sort of refuge, and the General of the Society might therefore find a difficulty in readjusting the provinces. This avowal of the Cardinal corroborates the complaint of the Maltese as to the immigration of foreign priests, and renders it all the more desirable that a change should be effected, as otherwise education in English may be retarded for generations.

The Cardinal has more than once alluded to the difficulty of improving the Seminary in consequence of the lack of funds at the disposal of the Bishop; and as I had been informed that the Bishop of Malta was moving to get the revenues of some small benefices now in the gift of the Governor applied, as the benefices became vacant, for that purpose, I informed the Cardinal that I was not authorized to surrender the patronage of these benefices; but that, if a scheme of education in which the English language was made to



prevail could be devised, I would recommend that Her Majesty's Government should accede to the desire of the Bishop.

These benefices are generally of very small value, from 8*l.* to 15*l.* a-year, with one of 60*l.*; and, speaking from my own experience, I should say that it would be a great relief to the Governor to have nothing to say to them; and, without doubt, they are of little use to the people, the duties attached to them not being in connection with parishes, but generally for special services in small chapels apart from the parish churches.

These revenues cannot be transferred to the Seminary without the sanction of the Pope, so that their surrender will be a concession which will render the Papal authorities more ready to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government on this and other questions.

The Cardinal informed me that the arrangement was similar to one he had negotiated when Nuncio in Spain, and that the results had been most satisfactory.

The details of the benefices to be surrendered will, of course, require careful consideration, but I have no doubt that several of them might be surrendered with advantage, and I should be glad to receive your Lordship's instructions whether I might negotiate on the basis of the surrender of the patronage of the Governor of some of these benefices.

#### No. 8.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 31.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, December 28, 1889.*

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the custom prevailing at the Papal Court, I yesterday waited upon His Holiness and expressed the good-will of Her Majesty and her felicitations for the coming year, when His Holiness desired me to convey to Her Majesty his wishes for her health and prosperity, and for that of her Empire. He at the same time expressed his anxious desire that the negotiations upon which I am engaged may terminate in such a manner as to be entirely satisfactory to Her Majesty, and would conduce to the welfare of the people of Malta.

After this official interview His Holiness held a private conversation with me, in which he made many minute inquiries as to the condition of education in Malta, and especially as to the system of government, and seemed surprised that the Council of Government is composed entirely of Her Majesty's Maltese subjects, and that they have their own Budget, and vote their own expenditure.

His Holiness also made inquiries as to the Jesuits' establishment in Malta, when I informed him that Sicilian Jesuits had, within the last few years, rented buildings in Malta, and established noviciate-houses, which were almost entirely filled by Sicilians; and that this was one of the causes which made the Maltese, and particularly the priests, complain of the immigration of foreigners. I also gave a description to him of the College of St. Ignatius, which is maintained by English Jesuit Fathers, and at which a good English education is given to pupils drawn from the best Maltese families, who show their appreciation of the value of the instruction given by paying from 40*l.* to 50*l.* a-year for each pupil, notwithstanding that they could have their sons educated in the Government Lyceum and University for a nominal fee of a few shillings a-year. I also stated that every encouragement has been given by the Government to this latter College, as it has been considered a great advantage to have some of the best of the youths in the island educated in the English language and with English ideas.

His Holiness, at the conclusion of the interview, said that he would give instructions to the Cardinal Secretary of State with a view to expediting the decision of the questions as to which I am treating.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

#### No. 9.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 2, 1890.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 26th November, relative to your arrival at Rome, and the audience which was granted to you on the



23rd of that month by the Pope; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held by you on the occasion in question.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 10.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1890.*  
HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by you on the occasion of the private interview with the Pope to which you were admitted on the 27th ultimo, as reported in your despatch of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 11.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 13.)*

My Lord, *Rome, January 7, 1890.*

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that I have had interviews with Cardinal Rampolla on the 31st December, and again to-day, at both of which I pressed his Eminence for information as to the measures being taken to resolve the various questions under consideration.

His Eminence assured me that no time should be lost, and that the Cardinals to whom these questions are to be referred had been named by the Pope, and that he had prepared the necessary documents for submission to them.

In my audience with the Pope on the 27th ultimo, as also in my interview with Cardinal Rampolla on that day, I had mentioned that in all probability Dr. Carbone's presence would be required in Malta in consequence of the approaching opening of the Session of the Council of Government. I again, to-day, stated that Dr. Carbone's presence here is productive of much inconvenience to the Government of Malta, and that it would be impossible to keep him much longer.

I also stated that, in view of the opening of Parliament on the 11th February, it is most desirable that some conclusion should have been arrived at, having regard to questions which might not improbably be raised in the House of Commons soon after its assembly.

His Eminence assured me that there is every desire on the part of the Papal authorities to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and that he was confident of being able to give me the conclusions arrived at by the Congregations on the subject of the marriage and education questions in the course of a week.

His Eminence stated that, though there are great difficulties attending the marriage question, he hoped to present a formula on the subject which would be acceptable to Her Majesty's Government.

Somewhat of the delay which has occurred in treating these questions is due to the references which had to be made by the Papal authorities to the Bishop in Malta, and to the season of the year during which the ecclesiastical authorities have been much occupied with religious ceremonies.

As regards the nomination of Bishops, his Eminence stated that no final decision has been arrived at, and that the subject was under the consideration of the Pope, but his Eminence added that he did not see his way to the settlement of the appointment of Bishops otherwise than by private and confidential communications between the Vatican and some accredited person on the part of Her Majesty's Government on the occurrence of a vacancy as preliminary to the final appointment.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.



## No. 12.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 17, 1890.*

I HAVE referred to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies your despatches of the 12th and 23rd ultimo, relative to the proposal that the Governor of Malta should surrender his patronage of certain small benefices with a view to the utilization of their revenues for the better education of the Roman Catholic priesthood in the island.

I transmit to you, for your information and guidance, a copy of the letter which has been received from the Colonial Office on this subject.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 12.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, January 14, 1890.*

IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant, forwarding further despatches from Sir Lintorn Simmons, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to state, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that he is of opinion that Sir L. Simmons might be authorized to negotiate on the basis of the surrender of the Governor's patronage of some of the small benefices to which Sir L. Simmons alludes, with the view of having their revenues transferred to the Seminary.

His Lordship has no other observations to offer on the correspondence inclosed in your letter.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

EDWARD WINGFIELD.

## No. 13.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, January 18, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a note of the Cardinal Secretary of State, dated the 17th instant, in which his Eminence has communicated to me the decision of His Holiness the Pope relative to marriages which have been, or may hereafter be, celebrated in Malta.

I also inclose a copy of my note to his Eminence in reply, in which I have undertaken that Her Majesty's Government will cause a Project of Law to be introduced in the Council of Government of Malta to regulate the civil effects of marriages in accordance with the views expressed by His Holiness.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

*Cardinal Rampolla to Sir L. Simmons.*

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*The Vatican, January 17, 1890.*

THE Undersigned, Cardinal Secretary of State, has called the high attention of His Holiness to the demand forwarded by your Excellency, in the name of the English Government, respecting the validity of marriages celebrated in Malta in cases where either both parties do not profess the Catholic religion, or one of them belongs to that religion, and the other professes a different religion.

His Holiness, being desirous of acceding to that request, which is intended to remove



all doubts as to the validity of those marriages, and to eliminate the inconveniences which might arise therefrom, declares—

1. That marriages celebrated in Malta by all those who profess the Catholic religion, whether both contracting parties be Catholics, or whether one of them be a Catholic and the other a non-Catholic, are not, and shall not be, valid if they are not celebrated according to the form established by the Council of Trent.

2. That persons professing any other religion may validly celebrate their marriage without the necessity of going through the form established by the Council of Trent.

Legislation which Her Britannic Majesty's Government may exact for Malta, with the view to regulating the civil effects of marriages celebrated heretofore, or which will in future be celebrated therein in accordance with these declarations, will not meet with any opposition on the part of the Holy See.

Whereupon the under-mentioned Cardinal has the honour, &c.

(Signed) M. CARD. RAMPOLLA.

### Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

*Sir L. Simmons to Cardinal Rampolla.*

Eminence,

*Rome, January 18, 1890.*

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of England, has the honour to acknowledge receipt of a note of your Eminence, by which he is informed that, with a view to removing all doubts as to the validity of marriages celebrated in Malta in cases where either both parties do not profess the Catholic religion, or one of them belongs to that religion and the other professes a different religion, and to eliminate the inconveniences which might arise therefrom, His Holiness the Pope has been pleased to declare—

1. That marriages celebrated in Malta by all those who profess the Catholic religion, whether both contracting parties be Catholics, or whether one of them be a Catholic and the other a non-Catholic, are not, and shall not be, valid if they are not celebrated according to the form established by the Council of Trent.

2. That persons professing any other religion may validly celebrate their marriage without the necessity of going through the form established by the Council of Trent.

The Undersigned has to inform your Eminence that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will cause a Project of Law to be introduced in the Council of Government in Malta, in accordance with the above declarations, having for its object to regulate the civil effects of marriages celebrated heretofore, or which will in future be celebrated in that island.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

J. L. A. SIMMONS.

### No. 14.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, January 18, 1890.*

IN my despatch of the 12th December last I transmitted to your Lordship a copy of a Memorandum I gave to Cardinal Rampolla on the subject of the Law respecting marriage in Malta.

In that despatch I stated that I did not anticipate much difficulty in obtaining the concurrence of the Holy See to such measures as may be necessary for legalizing marriages both parties to which are non-Roman Catholics; but that, as regarded mixed marriages, I did not expect any great concession.

I have now to inform your Lordship that I have since had several conferences with his Eminence, who handed to me a confidential and unofficial note on the 14th instant, in which it was stated that the Holy Father, being desirous of complying with the demands made by me in the name of the British Government, and of removing all doubts respecting the validity of marriages hitherto celebrated, or which may hereafter be celebrated, in Malta, between non-Catholics and between Catholics on the one hand



and non-Catholics on the other, as well as the inconvenience which might result from such doubts, was prepared to declare—

1. That marriages between parties who profess, or have formerly professed, the Catholic religion are not valid unless they are celebrated according to the form of the Council of Trent.

2. That mixed marriages celebrated in accordance with the Decrees of the Council of Trent, whenever no other impediment exists, are valid; but the Ecclesiastical Laws expressly prohibit to the Catholic party to renew the consent before the minister of the non-Catholic party to the marriage. The Government is therefore invited to have it declared, by a legislative act, that such renewed consent is not necessary to the validity of the marriage.

3. That all those who do not profess, and who have never professed, the Catholic religion will be able to contract marriage validly without the necessity of going through the form established by the Council of Trent.

In reply to this note, I informed his Eminence, also in a confidential and unofficial form, that it was advisable that the decision of His Holiness should be in the form of an expression of opinion with regard to future legislation rather than in that of a declaration respecting the present state of the law; that any legislation to be enacted with regard to the way in which marriages should be celebrated should only take into consideration the religion which the parties profess at the time of the celebration of the marriage, and therefore that the words "or have formerly professed" and "who have never professed," in the 1st and 3rd paragraphs of his Eminence's note, should be omitted.

I also suggested the omission of the words "but the Ecclesiastical Laws expressly prohibit the Catholic party to renew the consent before the minister of the non-Catholic party to the marriage."

With regard to the first observation, I pointed out to the Cardinal that the Courts of Law in the British Empire are the sole interpreters of the law, and their decisions might possibly be at variance with the interpretation of the law as laid down by His Holiness, which would be greatly to be regretted; and that in fact his note contained an interpretation of the law with regard to the marriage of persons who had formerly professed the Catholic religion which would not be upheld by the Courts of Law in the case of those persons who had changed their religion prior to the celebration of their marriage.

The Cardinal, however, stated that His Holiness only interprets the laws of the Church as defined by the Council of Trent, and that, in accordance with the precedent of the decision of Pope Benedict in the case of Holland, he must retain the form of declaration, but that there would be no difficulty in expressing in his official note that he had no objection to legislation as to the civil effect of marriages celebrated in accordance with the lines indicated in his note.

With regard to my proposal that in any legislative enactment consideration should be limited to the religion which parties profess at the time of the celebration of their marriage, his Eminence expressed great anxiety that a provision should be made to prevent simulated professions of faith made with the object of facilitating a marriage. I pointed out to him that, however desirable this might be, such a provision would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, as it would involve a restriction on the liberty of the subject as to change of religion, and would necessitate some sort of test as to the sincerity of the change, which would be difficult to prove before a Civil Tribunal.

His Eminence, with much reluctance and after considerable discussion, consented to my suggestion, leaving the question of religion as a matter of conscience to the parties to the marriage.

With regard to the statement that the Ecclesiastical Laws expressly prohibit the Catholic party to renew the consent before a minister of the non-Catholic party to the marriage, I pointed out that any such expression of opinion might give rise to controversy, and that it had no immediate bearing on the legislation contemplated in that paragraph of his Eminence's note.

His Eminence then stated that the Archbishop Bishop of Malta had informed him that it was not unusual for parties to a mixed marriage celebrated according to the rites of the Roman Catholic religion to renew their marriage before ministers of other persuasions, having doubts as to the validity of such marriages when celebrated in the Catholic Church only, and he therefore thought it was most desirable that the legislation to be enacted should remove these doubts. I therefore undertook, with the concurrence of Dr. Carbone, that any legislative measure which might be brought before the Council of Government of Malta should be so framed as to comply with this request.

His Eminence finally expressed his sincere desire if possible to meet the various



objections I had raised to his confidential note, and after having communicated them to His Holiness the Pope, gave me the final decision of His Holiness in an official note, which I have sent to your Lordship in a despatch of even date with this.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 15.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)*

My Lord,

Rome, January 22, 1890,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship translation of a note received this day from the Cardinal Secretary of State, containing proposals on the part of His Holiness the Pope relative to the education of the clergy in the Island of Malta.

I also inclose a copy of the reply thereto which I have sent to his Eminence this day.

Your Lordship will see that His Holiness has fully appreciated the observations addressed by me to the Cardinal Secretary of State, as reported in my despatch of the 12th December,\* and I feel assured that the proposals in the note herewith forwarded contain what will result in a most useful reform in the education of the clergy of the island, not only if regarded from a purely ecclesiastical point of view, but also as tending to strengthen the bond of union of the inhabitants with the British Empire by the spread of the English language, and by the dissemination of English ideas among them.

The attainment of this result will take time; but the declaration of His Holiness that it is reasonable that the education of the clergy should be of such a nature as to enable them to keep up proper relations with the Government authorities and with the adventitious element of English origin, coupled with an English-speaking Rector, and with the well-known loyal desire of the present Archbishop Bishop of Malta to support Her Majesty's Government, gives every reason to hope that in a few years a great and beneficial change will have ensued.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

*Cardinal Rampolla to Sir L. Simmons.*

(Translation.)

*The Vatican, January 22, 1890.*

THE Undersigned, Cardinal Secretary of State, in consequence of the conferences held with your Excellency, has called the high attention of His Holiness to the desire expressed on behalf of the English Government with respect to the Seminary of Malta, and has now the honour to communicate to you, in a more definite way, the dispositions of His Holiness on the subject.

In the first place, he has the satisfaction of declaring to your Excellency that the proposal of raising the instruction of the Maltese clergy fully enters into the views of His Holiness.

The Holy Father finds it, moreover, reasonable that such education should be imparted to the Maltese clergy as is suitable to the special conditions of the island, that is to say, such education as will place them in a position to exercise their functions with prestige and advantage, not only among the lower orders of the people, but likewise among the higher classes of society, and to keep up proper relations with the Government authorities and with the adventitious element of English origin.

The improvement, however, which for this object should be made should be gradual, that is to say, by degrees as the disposable funds will permit.

The Holy Father, however, being desirous from this moment of giving a proof of deference to the English Government, is prepared to cause the knowledge of the



English language to be spread among the clergy, and, with a view to attaining this end, to cause that the English language be used in the teaching of geography, history, arithmetic, and mathematics.

He will likewise endeavour that the Rector of the Seminary of Malta, besides possessing the qualifications fitting him for the discharge of the duties attached to his office, shall be of Maltese origin, and at any rate a British subject. Should the local Government supply the necessary funds for the maintenance of some English Fathers and masters, effect might easily be given to this further measure forthwith.

In order to carry out these proposals, His Holiness relies on the intention manifested by the English Government of surrendering on its part the presentation to ecclesiastical benefices, and of consenting that, as they become vacant, the Holy See may suppress the same, and apply the revenues thereof for the advantage of the education of young clergymen, as likewise of allotting for the same object a convenient portion, to be determined, of the property belonging to St. Paul's Grotto.

Trusting that the foregoing dispositions of His Holiness will meet the appreciation of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, the undersigned Cardinal has, &c.

(Signed) M. CARD. RAMPOLLA.

### Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

*Sir L. Simmons to Cardinal Rampolla.*

Eminence,

Rome, January 22, 1890.

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Queen of England, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note from your Eminence, bearing this day's date, by which he is informed that the Holy Father finds it reasonable that the education to be imparted to the Maltese clergy should be suitable to the special conditions of the Island of Malta, that is to say, that it should place them in a position to exercise their functions with prestige and advantage not only among the lower orders of the people, but likewise among the higher classes of society, and to keep up proper relations with the Government authorities and with the adventitious element of English origin.

Your Eminence further informs me that the Holy Father being desirous, from this moment, of giving a proof of deference to the English Government, is prepared to cause the knowledge of the English language to be spread among the clergy, and, with a view to obtaining this end, to cause that the English language be used in the teaching of geography, history, arithmetic, and mathematics, and that he will endeavour that the Rector of the Seminary, besides possessing the qualifications fitting him for the discharge of the duties attached to his office, shall be of Maltese origin, and at any rate a British subject.

Being willing to give a proof of their desire to aid the intention expressed on behalf of the Holy Father to improve the education of the Maltese clergy, and especially that they should be instructed in the English language, and become acquainted with English institutions, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to surrender the collation of certain ecclesiastical benefices in Malta, and to consent that as they become vacant the Holy See may suppress the same, and apply the revenues thereof in aid of education in the Seminary; trusting that the Rector of the Seminary, besides being fitted for the discharge of the duties attached to his office, including the supervision of instruction in the English language, shall be of Maltese origin, or at any rate a British subject.

The Undersigned must, however, leave the determination of the particular benefices to be suppressed as a detail for future consideration of the Government and Ecclesiastical authorities in Malta.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

J. L. A. SIMMONS.



*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, January 22, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, after several conferences, the Cardinal Secretary of State handed me, confidentially, on the 20th instant, a note on the subject of the education of the clergy in Malta, which had been brought under his notice in a Memorandum, copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 12th December.

In this note the Cardinal informed me that the proposal to raise the instruction of the Maltese clergy fully entered into the views of the Holy Father, who likewise recognized that it was reasonable that their education should not only place them in a position to exercise their spiritual functions, but also to keep up proper relations with the Government authorities and with the adventitious element of English origin.

His Holiness also, being desirous to give an immediate proof of good-will to Her Majesty's Government, is prepared to encourage the knowledge of the English language among the clergy, and, with that view, to direct that that language shall be used in the teaching of secondary subjects, and will endeavour that the Rector of the Seminary shall be a Maltese, or at any rate a British subject, and not of foreign nationality.

He added that, if the Local Government would supply the necessary funds for the maintenance of some English Fathers and masters in the Seminary, effect might be given at once to this measure.

Finally, the Holy Father considered that it would be desirable that the Government on its part should surrender presentation to ecclesiastical benefices in favour of the Bishop, who, after due sanction from the Holy See, would apply them partly to the uses of the Seminary, and avail himself of the remainder to provide benefices for such young clergymen as shall distinguish themselves in their studies, which he considered would certainly serve as a stimulus and encouragement.

In reply, I informed the Cardinal Secretary of State that his draft note appeared, in great measure, to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government, and suggested some slight verbal alterations to which he agreed. I added that it was desirable that the Rector of the Seminary should not only be a British subject, but that he should be conversant with, and capable of superintending, the instruction to be given therein. To this his Eminence replied that such was the intention of the Holy Father, and mentioned, confidentially, that he contemplated the appointment of an ecclesiastic with whom I am acquainted, and who has been partly educated in England, and is thoroughly conversant with the English language. The Cardinal added that he hoped this appointment would be acceptable to Her Majesty's Government; to which I replied that I have every reason to believe it would be so.

With regard to the proposal that the patronage of certain ecclesiastical benefices, now at the disposal of the Governor, should be surrendered to the Archbishop, with a view to his applying part of the revenues thereof to the uses of the Seminary, and to his rewarding deserving ecclesiastics by nominations to some of them, I observed that Her Majesty's Government are willing to surrender the right of nomination to such benefices as the Holy Father may think fit to suppress, as they became vacant, with a view to applying the revenues of such benefices to the education of the clergy; but that Her Majesty's Government are not inclined to surrender the nomination to those benefices the revenues of which cannot be applied to educational purposes.

In the course of conversation I mentioned the case of St. Paul's Grotto at Rabato, in Malta, where ten priests are engaged, dividing among them 282l. a-year for officiating in the church attached to the Grotto; and stated my private opinion that it would be better to increase the salaries of the Rector and Sub-Rector, who might suffice for the duties of the church, and devote the balance of the revenue of the Grotto for the uses of the Seminary. I added that the emoluments of these priests, which had probably been fixed at a distant period, are totally insufficient for their maintenance in a manner consistent with their position as clergymen, and that, therefore, it was very desirable that they should be increased. I further stated that an expression of opinion to this effect on the part of the Holy See would be of great use in enabling the Archbishop Bishop of Malta to carry the change into effect.

The Cardinal, who throughout the negotiations has evinced a most earnest desire to meet the views of Her Majesty's Government, as well as to improve the condition of the Church in Malta, appeared to coincide with the views I expressed, and said he would take the instructions of the Holy Father thereon.



As to the suggestion that the Local Government might supply the necessary funds for the maintenance of some English Fathers and masters in the Seminary, I stated, verbally, to his Eminence that I doubted whether funds would be voted by the Council of Government for such purpose, and made no reference to it in my reply.

The result has been that his Eminence gave me an official note on the 22nd instant, expressing the final decision of the Holy Father, to which I replied on the same day, as your Lordship will have been informed by my despatch of even date with this.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 17.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 14, 1890.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches of the 18th ultimo, reporting the negotiations which have taken place with the Vatican on the subject of marriages in Malta, and inclosing copies of the final notes of agreement exchanged; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 14, 1890.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings in regard to the question of the education of the Roman Catholic clergy in Malta, as reported in your despatches of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, February 26, 1890.*

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the usual custom, the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Pope waited upon His Holiness to congratulate him on the anniversary of his elevation to the Pontifical Throne, each Representative of a foreign State being received in separate audience.

In the name of Her Majesty I congratulated His Holiness on the event, and expressed Her Majesty's sincere desire that he might long be spared to occupy his Throne for the benefit of Catholics in general, and especially of those of Her Majesty's subjects who, scattered throughout her extensive dominions, recognized His Holiness as the Head here on earth of the Church to which they belonged, and I also added my own congratulations.

His Holiness expressed himself as greatly pleased, and said that he had always been, and is, most desirous of promoting the happiness and welfare of Her Majesty's Catholic subjects, and he recognized with much satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government had always supported him in his efforts in that direction. He desired me to express his sincere wishes for the welfare of Her Majesty and of her people, and added that he regarded it as a proof of the good-will of Her Majesty, and of that of her Government, that I had been sent as Her Majesty's Representative to the Holy See.

His Holiness added some remarks which were personally flattering, but which I need not repeat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.



*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)*

(Extract.)

Rome, March 31, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a note in original, dated the 20th instant (received by me on the 25th), from the Cardinal Secretary of State, in which his Eminence has communicated to me the decision of His Holiness the Pope relative to the appointment of Bishops in the Islands of Malta and Gozo, and to other ecclesiastical matters connected therewith, together with a translation of the same.

I also inclose a copy of my note to his Eminence in reply, from which your Lordship will see that the Holy Father, while reserving his rights and liberty of action, expresses his earnest desire in any nomination that may hereafter be made to the Episcopate in those islands to meet with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, and undertakes before proceeding to the official nomination that sufficient notice shall be given to Her Majesty's Government according to established practice, and that he will assure himself of the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, not by written and official correspondence, but by verbal communications of a strictly private and confidential character whenever Her Majesty's Government shall furnish him with the means and the occasion.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

*Cardinal Rampolla to Sir L. Simmons.*

(Translation.)

The Vatican, March 20, 1890.

THE Undersigned, Cardinal Secretary of State, has brought to the knowledge of His Holiness the desire expressed to him by your Excellency in the name of your Government with reference to the nomination of the Bishops and other ecclesiastical matters relating to the Island of Malta, and he hastens now with pleasure to inform you that the Holy Father, after having taken everything into due consideration, wishing still further to strengthen the friendly relations and good understanding between the Holy See and the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, has ordered him to communicate to your Excellency as follows:—

In the first place, as to what concerns the manner of providing for the Episcopal Sees of Malta and of Gozo, His Holiness, although he cannot consent that the right of nominating whom he chooses and his liberty of action relative to the said Sees should be curtailed, is, nevertheless, disposed to treat Her Majesty's Government with all that regard and consideration which are compatible with the integrity of that right and of that liberty.

Wherefore, every time that the British Government may be pleased to announce to him officially that a vacancy in the said Sees has taken place, or that a vacancy is probable, the Holy Father will willingly receive these official announcements, provided that he reserves to himself, notwithstanding any communication which may have been received, full liberty to take the initiative in those arrangements he may consider necessary and opportune to the occasion. As to the rest, before proceeding to the official nomination of the Titulars of the said Sees, the Secretary of State of His Holiness will not omit in future to give previous notice of the same to the English Government according to established practice. Such practice will also be extended to the nominations of Apostolic administrators and coadjutors with future succession. And inasmuch as the Holy Father in providing, as is his duty, for the greater welfare of the souls in the Island of Malta, his rights and his liberty being secured, has nothing more greatly at heart than also to meet with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, he will not be averse to assure himself thereof beforehand, not, however, by means of written and official correspondence, but by simple verbal communications of a strictly confidential and private character, whenever the Government itself may furnish him with the means and the occasion.

As regards the request, that the persons to be promoted to the Episcopate should be of Maltese nationality, it is to be observed that to allay all anxiety on the subject and without in any way entering upon the question of right, Her Majesty's Government ought to be satisfied with the consideration that, as a matter of fact, the Holy See, conforming itself to the spirit of the Sacred Canons, would never appoint as pastor of a diocese one who is not acceptable to the people to be confided to his charge.

As to the declaration that the Government of Her Majesty will make, that any



communication regarding spiritual and ecclesiastical affairs between the Bishops, clergy, and people on the one hand, and the Holy See on the other, shall not depend in the least on the consent of the said Government but shall be entirely free, a declaration which is in complete harmony with the political system which does so much honour to Her Majesty's Government, the Holy Father will receive it with full satisfaction, recognizing in such liberty one of the indispensable conditions of the life of the Church. As to the communication that is desired of Pontifical documents of public interest destined for publicity this can take place in those matters in which the Holy See is wont to practise it, and in the strictly confidential and friendly form of which mention is made above.

After this, the undersigned Cardinal has the honour to assure your Excellency of his distinguished consideration.

(Signed) M. CARD. RAMPOLLA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

*Sir L. Simmons to Cardinal Rampolla.*

*Rome, March 26, 1890.*

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note of your Eminence of the 20th March, by which he is informed with reference to the nomination of Bishops and other Ecclesiastical matters relating to the Island of Malta that the Holy Father, after having taken everything into due consideration, wishing still further to strengthen the friendly relations and good understanding between the Holy See and the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, had ordered your Eminence to communicate to the Undersigned as follows:—

1. As to what concerns the manner of providing for the Episcopal Sees of Malta and of Gozo, His Holiness, although he cannot consent that the right of nominating whom he chooses and his liberty of action relative to the said Sees should be curtailed, is, nevertheless, disposed to treat Her Majesty's Government with all that regard and consideration which are compatible with the integrity of that right and of that liberty. Wherefore, every time that the British Government may be pleased to announce to His Holiness, officially, that a vacancy in the said Sees has taken place or is probable, the Holy Father will willingly receive these official announcements, provided that he reserves to himself, notwithstanding any communication which may have been received, full liberty to take the initiative in the arrangements he may consider necessary and opportune to the occasion. As to the rest before proceeding to the official nomination of the Titulars of the said Sees, the Secretary of State of His Holiness will not omit, in future, to give previous notice of the same to the English Government according to established practice. Such practice will also be extended to the nomination of Apostolic administrators and coadjutors with future succession, and inasmuch as the Holy Father, in providing, as is his duty, for the greater welfare of the souls of the Island of Malta, his rights and his liberty being secured, has nothing more greatly at heart than that his action should also be acceptable to Her Majesty's Government, he will not be averse to assure himself thereof beforehand, not however by means of written and official correspondence, but by simple verbal communications of a strictly private and confidential character, whenever the Government itself shall furnish him with the means and the occasion.

With regard to the above, the Undersigned is authorized to declare that Her Majesty's Government has no desire that the rights of the Pope and his liberty of action in respect of nominations to vacant Sees of Malta and of Gozo should be curtailed in the least degree. Her Majesty's Government, however, being desirous that a full understanding should be established, and that no cause of difference should be allowed to arise which shall place, even partially, the influence of the two Powers in antagonism to each other in the minds of the people, accepts with satisfaction the declaration of your Eminence; that is to say, that before proceeding to any proposed nomination to either of the said Sees, the Secretary of State to His Holiness will not omit to give sufficient notice thereof according to established practice; and that the Holy Father, while providing for the greater welfare of the souls of the Island of Malta, his rights and his liberty being secured, having nothing more at heart in such nominations than to meet with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, will assure himself thereof beforehand by verbal communications of a strictly confidential and private character, whenever the said Government shall furnish him with the means and the occasion. Her Majesty's Government observes also with



much gratification that the Holy Father has himself extended this declaration to the nomination of Apostolic administrators and coadjutors with future succession.

2. With regard to the request of the Undersigned that the persons to be promoted to the Episcopate should be of Maltese nationality, Her Majesty's Government, while acknowledging the right of the Holy Father to nominate to such Episcopate others than those of Maltese nationality, accepts with satisfaction the assurance that the Holy See will never appoint as pastor of either of the Dioceses of Malta or Gozo an ecclesiastic who is not acceptable to the people confided to his charge.

3. The Undersigned is authorized to state that Her Majesty's Government has no desire that any communication regarding spiritual and ecclesiastical affairs between the Bishop, clergy, and people of Malta on the one hand, and the Holy See on the other, should depend in the least on the consent of the said Government, but shall be entirely free, and is gratified that the Holy Father receives this declaration with full satisfaction as being in complete harmony with the political system which does so much honour to Her Majesty's Government. Her Majesty's Government receives with satisfaction the assurance that the Holy See will communicate to Her Majesty's Government Pontifical documents of public interest destined for publicity in the strictly confidential and friendly form of which mention has been made before.

The Undersigned takes, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

#### No. 21.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)*

(Extract.)

Rome, March 31, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of even date with this, I have to inform your Lordship that, after much consideration, I have adopted the form as expressed in my official note to the Cardinal, which affords an assured guarantee to Her Majesty's Government that ample opportunity will be given of expressing its opinion as to any proposed nominee, and that the Holy See will not proceed to the appointment of an ecclesiastic who might be objectionable to Her Majesty's Government.

Your Lordship will perceive that, according to this formula, which the Cardinal has accepted, before proceeding to any nomination to either of the Sees of Malta or of Gozo, the Secretary of State of His Holiness undertakes to give sufficient notice, and the Holy Father undertakes to assure himself of the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government before making a final appointment, whenever the Holy See is provided with the means of doing so, thus affording an ample guarantee in the sense approved by your Lordship.

#### No. 22.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)*

My Lord,

Rome, March 31, 1890.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that, having sent my final note relative to the appointment of Bishops to the Cardinal Secretary of State on the 26th instant, I saw his Eminence on the following day, and requested to be informed when the Pope would receive me in audience to take leave preparatory to my departure.

This being Holy week, during which the Pope is not in the habit of receiving, it is probable that the audience will not take place before Monday or Tuesday in Easter week.

I propose to leave Rome immediately after, and to arrive in England early in May.

Major Ross of Bladensburg will also leave Rome immediately after the audience, travelling direct to England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.



## No. 23.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, April 7, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had a farewell audience of His Holiness the Pope to-day, when I expressed to him on the part of Her Majesty's Government their acknowledgment of the cordiality with which he had received the Mission with which I had been intrusted relative to the affairs of the inhabitants of Malta, and their deep sense of the goodwill and attention with which my representations had been received and considered. I added that there is every reason to hope and believe that, while tending to strengthen that sincere friendship and unfeigned respect which Her Majesty entertains for the person and character of His Holiness, the negotiations in which I have taken part will be productive of advantage to the religious and political interests of the people of Malta and Gozo.

I also ventured to express my high appreciation of the courtesy with which my representations have been invariably received by the Cardinal Secretary of State, and of the very friendly and conciliatory manner he has always displayed in conducting the negotiations with which he was intrusted by His Holiness.

His Holiness in reply stated that it gave him great satisfaction to receive the Mission, and that its results had accorded with what he had anticipated when the Mission was first proposed. From information he had received from Malta, he was gratified to know that, so far as they had been published, the conclusions arrived at had produced a very favourable impression on the island. He also said that such arrangements are in progress with reference to the education of the clergy as would, he believed, fully accord with the views of Her Majesty's Government as expressed by me. He went on to say that negotiations conducted in this way between the Holy See and Her Majesty's Government would be beneficial as regards the people of Malta, but might also be usefully extended to other parts of the Empire, where Catholic interests were of great importance. He expressed himself highly satisfied, and in a very complimentary manner, as to the way in which the duties of the Mission had been conducted, and added that there were several matters which are of considerable interest to the people of Malta, and which it was very desirable should be discussed with Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

## No. 24.

*Sir L. Simmons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, April 7, 1890.*

IN my despatch of the 12th December last I informed your Lordship that I had brought the subject of intramural burials to the notice of the Cardinal Secretary of State, with a view to obtaining an expression of opinion on the part of His Holiness the Pope, that it is desirable that the practice of burying underneath the churches now in vogue in the country districts of Malta and Gozo should cease.

I have now to inform your Lordship that I have not received a reply to the Memorandum, a copy of which was forwarded with the despatch above referred to, but the Cardinal Secretary of State promised me at an interview I had with him at my farewell audience of the Pope, that communications will be made immediately to the Bishops of Malta and Gozo in the sense desired by Her Majesty's Government.

I have no doubt, therefore, that all local opposition will be removed, and that the Government of the island will experience no difficulty in legislating so as to do away with the unsanitary practice of burying underneath the churches, whenever proper cemeteries shall have been provided.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.



No. 25.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 17, 1890.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your action in the negotiations which have taken place with the Vatican in regard to the appointment of Bishops in Malta and Gozo, as reported in your despatches of the 31st ultimo.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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No. 26.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. Simmons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 22, 1890.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 7th instant, reporting the farewell audience which was granted to you on that day by the Pope.

I have much pleasure in conveying to you the high appreciation entertained by Her Majesty's Government of the services which you have rendered during the course of your Special Mission to the Vatican, as well as their sense of the judgment and skill displayed by you in conducting the negotiations with which you were intrusted.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.





CORRESPONDENCE respecting Sir L. Simmons'  
Special Mission to the Vatican relative to  
Religious questions in the Island of Malta.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command  
of Her Majesty. May 1890.*

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