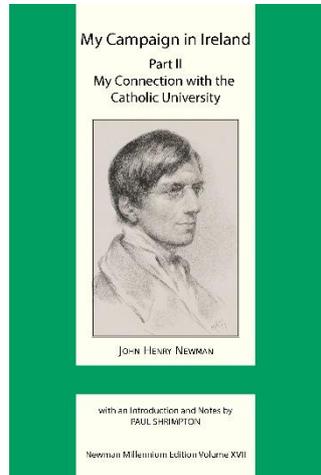


MY CAMPAIGN IN IRELAND, PART II

John Henry Newman

(Gracewing: Leominster, 2022, pp. cxv + 544, hbk, £35)

ed. Paul Shrimpton



My Campaign in Ireland, Part II contains hitherto unpublished writings by Newman, discovered by the editor in the Birmingham Oratory archives. Newman had left instructions that after his death, his papers about the Catholic University should not be published except for grave reasons, because they were too sensitive. These included the three documents that comprise this volume: the first draft of a ‘Memorandum about my Connection with the Catholic University’ written in 1870; a heavily revised version of this, written in 1872–73; and a lengthy Appendix of correspondence, with extracts of letters from and to Newman together with a running commentary. In total they amount to 984 pages of manuscript, all in Newman’s hand.

Newman’s literary executor, William Neville, had most of his University papers privately printed as *My Campaign in Ireland, Part I* – but the Memorandum and Appendix were too controversial, and Neville left them in the archives as a possible future *Part II*. The second version of the Memorandum appeared in 1956 as part of Newman’s *Autobiographical Writings*, but neither the original Memorandum nor the Appendix have ever been published before.

My Campaign in Ireland, Part II represents Newman’s candid verdict on his frustrating years as founding Rector of the Catholic University. In describing the causes of his ‘campaign’s’ failure, he is not afraid to criticise those who shared the responsibility with him, not least his co-founder Archbishop Cullen – and even Pius IX. These writings illustrate Newman’s toughness – but also fairness – in his dealings with others, and show how his powers of diplomacy were stretched to the limit.

The editor of this critical edition, Paul Shrimpton, has provided an Introduction and comprehensive footnotes to both the Memorandum and the Appendix, enabling the reader to make sense of the conflicts and viewpoints they describe. Together with *My Campaign, Part I* (also edited by Paul Shrimpton), this volume makes essential reading for understanding what happened when Newman tried to turn his *Idea of a University* into a reality.