

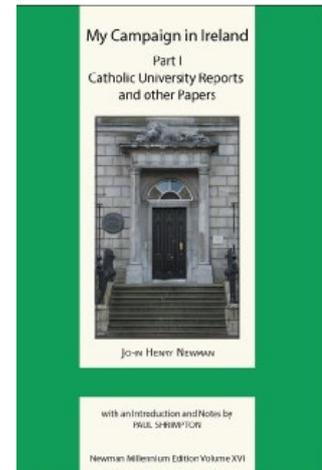
MY CAMPAIGN IN IRELAND, PART I

John Henry Newman

(Gracewing: Leominster, 2021, pp. xli + 614, hbk, £35)

ed. Paul Shrimpton

This volume of John Henry Newman's Catholic University papers, collected and arranged by his private secretary William Neville, was printed for private circulation in 1896, six years after Newman's death. Since then, it has only been reproduced in facsimile. It is now published in a critical edition for the first time.



My Campaign in Ireland, Part I brings together the most important documents penned by Newman in his efforts to establish a Catholic university in Ireland. Appointed the founding Rector in 1851, Newman was fully involved in every aspect of the university, masterminding its design in the planning stages, then from 1854, when it opened, as its Rector until his resignation in 1858. The discourses he composed in 1852, to prepare for the foundation of the university, form the first half of *The Idea of a University*, Newman's classic work on education which many regard as the most influential book on the nature and purpose of the university. By contrast, the foundational documents in *My Campaign in Ireland, Part I* demonstrate how he was able to turn theory into practice in adverse circumstances. Filling out Newman's vision of education, they show how he should also be esteemed for his practical contribution to education.

In his educational endeavours in Dublin, Newman drew on his formative years at Oxford, where he had taken the leading part in the Oxford Movement as well as promoting the reform of the University as a Fellow and Tutor of Oriel College. The annual Reports that Newman composed for the Dublin university show how he was able to fuse the wisdom of ages with contemporary needs in establishing a university at a critical time in its development. His sensitivity to the pastoral as well as the intellectual dimensions of the university are fully evident in the comprehensive Rules and Regulations that acted as a constitution for the University. Everyone with a stake in higher education can learn from these and other documents which articulate the thinking of one of the great Christian humanists of modern times.

While these university papers are a treasure for anyone alive to Newman's educational genius, they contain an additional item that gives the collection a special significance: Discourse V which Newman omitted from the *Idea*. In the words of the leading Newman scholar Ian Ker, Discourse V 'provides a devastating contrast between modern fragmented secularist education and an integrated liberal education in the Christian tradition, and is therefore one of the most eloquent parts of the Discourses'.

The editor of this first critical edition, Newman scholar Paul Shrimpton, provides an introduction and comprehensive footnotes. These elucidate the significance of the volume's various documents by providing a historical context for Newman's educational endeavours in Dublin. In addition, English translations have been supplied for documents that were originally in Latin. The volume has been completely re-set, allowing the editor's footnotes to appear beneath Newman's text, while respecting the format and page layout of the original version.