

**Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
National Library of Ireland**

Collection List No. 116

LEINSTER PAPERS

(MS 41,552 /1-73)

(Accession No.: 5493 (part of))

Compiled by A.P.W. Malcomson

- MS 41,552 /1** 1559: 1596: 1598
Papers – mainly surveys – re Kildare lands in Co. Limerick (Adare, Croom, etc.
6 sheets.
- MS 41,552 / 2** 1580: 1590
Case papers re lands in King’s County and the depredations of the O’Molloys.
2 sheets.
- MS 41,552 / 3** 1598-1600
Petitions, letters, etc. from Gerald Fitzgerald, 14th Earl of Kildare to A[dam]Loftus], Lord Chancellor of Ireland; William [Cecil, Lord] Burleigh, and T[homas Sackville, Lord] Buckhurst, successive Lords Treasurer of England, etc. The principal theme is the 14th Earl’s financial inability to support his rank and position.
7 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /4** 1609-19
Case papers, etc. of the 14th Earl and of Gerald, 15th Earl of Kildare (since 1612: d. 1620) re the lands of Pallice, Co. Wexford.
9 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /5** 1622: 1628: 1633-5: N.D.: 1652-4
Case papers and deeds re estates in Counties Limerick and Clare – Croom, Kilgobbin, etc.
24 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /6** 1630-7: 1641: 1651-5
Papers about the debts of George, 16th Earl of Kildare; includes draft articles of 1655 re the marriage of the second daughter of the Earl, Lady Frances Fitzgerald, and James Shaen of Kill[ure?], Co. Westmeath.
21 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /7** 1657-62
Bonds, agreements, accounts, etc. re Wentworth, 17th Earl of Kildare’s Manors of Ardglass and Strangford, Co. Down, and re the customs of Strangford farmed by the Earl from the Crown for £10,000. [N.B. The date of the 16th Earl’s death is always given in *Peerages* as 1660; but these papers show that he was dead by 1657.]
7 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /8** 1657-78
Papers about the debts, settlements and other financial affairs of Wentworth, 17th Earl of Kildare (d. 1664), and those of his son, John, 18th Earl of Kildare, a minor (b. 1661), whose guardian was his grandmother, Elizabeth, Countess of Clare.
20 sheets.

- MS 41,552 /9** 1659-1673
Bond and case papers re a debt (for wages) due to Rev. Dr. James Murphy, chaplain to the 17th Earl of Kildare.
4 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /10** 1660-65: 1671: 1674-5
Letters and papers of the 17th and 18th Earls of Kildare re the Lordship of Croom, Co. Limerick; correspondents include Daniel and Philip Cantillon, and Lady Smyth, widow of Sir Percy Smyth of Ballynatray, Co. Waterford, tenant of the Kildare estate at Croom, and their son, Boyle Smyth (d. 1662?).
14 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /11** 1661-1673
Miscellaneous letters and papers re the Co. Kildare estate; includes case papers in a lawsuit with the Brabazon family, Earls of Meath, over their rent-charge on the Manor of Maynooth.
7 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /12** 1662
Letter and bricklayer's bill re the 16th Earl of Kildare's new house in Saint Michael's Lane, Dublin.
2 items.
- MS 41,552 /13** 1662-3: 1677
Papers about the finances of the 17th Earl's troop of horse.
9 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /14** 1684
Bond from Earl of Meath to Christopher Dominick, M.D., of Dublin, which seems to relate to the perfecting, by Meath to Dominick, of a number of leases of ground near Meath Street, Dublin.
1 sheet.
- MS 41,552 /15** 1722: 1727
Two agreements from different citizens of Dublin to convey to Christopher Dominick Esq. of Dublin their respective premises off Great Britain Street.
2 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /16** [1727?]: 1737: 1746: 1748: 1772
Six unrelated letters, case papers and agreements. The letters (2) are from the 19th Earl of Kildare to his agent Boyle Spencer [1727?] of Rathangan, Co. Kildare, and relate to an election for Athy, Co. Kildare, and to breach of faith by Quaker [tenants?]. The case papers and agreements (4) relate to Mary, Countess Dowager of Kildare (widow of the 19th Earl) and her son, the 20th Earl of Kildare (later 1st Duke of Leinster). The item of 1748 is an arbitrator's award in relation to the proportion of the rents due to the executors of the recently deceased 19th Earl of Kildare and the proportion due to his son and successor, the 20th

- Earl.
6 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /17** 1759-1806
Original bundle of letters to Emily, Duchess of Leinster, from her children; her sister; her sister-in-law, Lady George Lennox; her second husband, William Ogilvie; her brother the 3rd Duke of Richmond, etc., given or sold to the then Duke of Leinster in 1886.
17 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /18** Nov. 1773: Feb. 1774
Copies of one letter each from the 1st and 2nd Dukes of Leinster to the Lord Lieutenant, the 1st Earl Harcourt, about their (increasingly hostile) relations with the Dublin Castle administration.
2 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /19** 1775-1795
Original bundle of letters to James Spencer of Rathangan, Co. Kildare, the agent for the Co. Kildare estate, from the 2nd Duke of Leinster, 'presented by Charles W. Hamilton Esq. [to the 5th Duke of Leinster], Dec. 1874'. The letters relate mainly to estate affairs – e.g. Leinster's suggestion (March 1784) that nothing be done with Kilrush until his brother, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, comes of age. However, other topics covered are the next election for King's County (1775), the difficulty of drafting a new constitutional relationship between Great Britain and Ireland (Apr. 1782) and the emoluments of Leinster's new office, the Mastership of the Rolls (1788).
17 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /20** 1780
Original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster from C.J. Fox, the 3rd Duke of Richmond, W[alter] H[ussey] Burgh [Prime Serjeant, 1777-80, and leader of Leinster's Houses of Commons 'squadron'], John Lees [Secretary to the Post Office], the 5th Earl of Carlisle (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland), William Eden (his Chief Secretary), John Robinson, etc., about Leinster's abandonment of opposition and adherence to the Carlisle administration, his request for a peerage for Henry Pomeroy [of Newbery Hall, Carbury, Co. Kildare], etc.
24 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /21** 1781-2
Original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster from Lord Carlisle, William Eden and the Duke of Richmond about patronage, especially for William Ogilvie, Leinster's step-father. Richmond's letters are about promotion in the army for Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Leinster's brother.
11 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /22** 1783
The same. The correspondents include C.J. Fox, the Duke of Richmond,

the 2nd Earl of Northington (Lord Lieutenant), William Windham and Thomas Pelham (his successive Chief Secretaries), Sackville Hamilton (Under-Secretary in Dublin Castle), etc. The letters relate almost exclusively to patronage: a majority for Lord Edward, a peerage for Pomeroy, the Post Office for Leinster (or something as good), the Registership of Deeds for Ogilvie, etc. In one of his letters Richmond tartly refuses to have anything to do with the Fox-North Coalition and its members. *34 sheets.*

- MS 41,552 /23** 1784
The same. The correspondents include Northington, Pelham, the 4th Duke of Rutland (Northington's successor as Lord Lieutenant), Thomas Orde (Pelham's successor as Chief Secretary), etc. Most of the letters are about patronage, but those from Richmond and from Thomas Burgh, of Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare, are mainly about parliamentary reform.
24 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /24** 1785
The same. The correspondents include Sackville Hamilton (about the choice of sheriff for Co. Kildare), Richmond (with whom there is a two-way exchange about parliamentary reform), and Fox (who urges Leinster and his MPs to support W.B. Ponsonby and oppose John Foster in the election for the Speakership).
9 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /25** 1786
The same, including letters from Richmond and the 3rd Duke of Portland (leader of the British Whigs) about Leinster's patronage requests, particularly on behalf of Lord Edward, and a letter from Fox suggesting that the Irish Parliament might care to vote an annual income to the Prince of Wales.
6 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /26** 1787
The same, including Leinster's sensible reply to Fox's proposal about the Prince of Wales, in which Leinster also discusses the Eden Treaty with France, a copy of a letter from Leinster to Lord Edward justifying Leinster's decision to support the new Irish administration headed by the 1st Marquess of Buckingham, and a letter to Leinster from Richmond in which Richmond defends his support of the defeated Commercial Propositions of 1785 and discuss the promotion prospects of Lord Edward.
13 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /27** 1788
The same. The correspondents include Richmond, Ogilvie, Buckingham, Alleyne Fitzherbert (the Chief Secretary), Lords Charles and Robert Fitzgerald (Leinster's brothers), the Marquess of Carmarthen (the Foreign Secretary), etc. Topics include the political

separation of Richmond from Fox (a letter from Leinster to Richmond laments this), Ogilvie's advice to Leinster to support Buckingham, Richmond's advice against pressing for the Garter because it would preclude Leinster's asking for other 'good things for your relations and friends', a diplomatic appointment for Lord Robert Fitzgerald, the 4th Earl Fitzwilliam's consent to the cutting of the [Royal] Canal through his estate, and the first stirrings of the Regency Crisis.
38 sheets.

MS 41,552 /28

Jan.-Aug. 1789

The same, mostly in relation to the Regency Crisis and the 2nd Duke of Leinster's decision to go into opposition in support of the pretensions of the Prince of Wales. The bundle includes correspondence between Leinster and the Prince, correspondence between Leinster and Lord Charles Fitzgerald (in which the latter complains that Leinster's politics have damaged Fitzgerald's naval and parliamentary careers), a letter from the 2nd Earl of Glandore expressing squeamishness about succeeding to the office (the Mastership of the Rolls) from which Leinster had just been dismissed, a letter from Edmund Burke praising Leinster's disinterested support of the Prince, etc. Also present is a letter written by Lord Robert Fitzgerald from Paris in July describing the outbreak of the French Revolution.

8 sheets.

MS 41,552 /29

1790

The same, mainly about the aftermath of the Regency Crisis and consequential arrangements. Major Robert Hobart (the new Chief Secretary) writes offering Leinster the nomination to the shrievalty of Co. Kildare. Thomas Burgh of Oldtown writes reproachful letters about being dropped as one of Leinster's MPs because he would not vote against John Foster [his kinsman and former guardian] and for W.B. Ponsonby in the Speakership election. Thomas Conolly of Castletown, Co. Kildare, writes proposing that Lord Edward be dropped (because of his absence on military service) as a candidate for Co. Kildare at the forthcoming general election and replaced by Sir Fenton Aylmer's son. The Duke of York writes about recruiting parties. Other letters relate to engineering work at Cove and Spike Island [the writer, Capt. John Brown, reappears in 1791 in connection with the Royal Canal], and to a living in the diocese of Kildare for a Leinster protégé. The last letter, from the 1st Marquess of Donegall, conveys his consent that his son, Lord Chichester, should marry [which in the end he did not] Leinster's half-sister, [Cecilia] Ogilvie.

11 sheets.

MS 41,552 /30

Jan.-Aug. 1791

First half of an original bundle containing letters of varied content to the 2nd Duke of Leinster. George Lewis [Jones], Bishop of Kildare, writes that he is 'the poorest patron among the bishops', and so cannot prefer Leinster's protégé. Lord Robert writes another long letter from Paris (mentioning 'the death of Mirabeau and his pompous funeral'). The

Duchess writes about her pregnancy and the nursing of her new baby when born. John FitzGibbon, Lord FitzGibbon, the new Lord Chancellor, writes about re-modelling the Co. Kildare magistracy, and there are other letters, from him and others, on the same subject. Lord Henry Fitzgerald (Leinster's Foxite brother) writes about his impending marriage, and other letters relate to difficulties and disagreements over the terms of the marriage settlement. The 1st Earl of Charlemont writes 4 letters from Bath (a 'detestable place'), where he has gone for the sake of his daughter's and his wife's health. In one of them he attributes the failure of 'the French no-king' to reach the frontier to his gluttony and refusal to 'have fasted for two hours at a time ...; finally he was taken [at Varennes] squat upon his haunches doing that which his gormandizing [sic] had rendered necessary.' In another he gives a graphic and entertaining account of the impression created at Bath by Emma Harte [sic], the future Lady Hamilton. The Dowager Duchess and her husband, William Ogilvie, write about the improvidence of Lord Chichester and the distress suffered by Cecilia Ogilvie, and Ogilvie expresses his fear that Lord Charles Fitzgerald has run up debts of £14,000 and may soon have to sell his [Lecale] estate. The correspondence concludes with congratulations on the birth of a son to the Leinsters.

17 sheets.

MS 41,552 /31

Sep.-Dec. 1791

Second half of the original bundle, containing similar material. Much of it relates to the birth of the longed-for heir and to arrangements for the Prince of Wales and Lord Charlemont to be godparents. In October Charlemont reports that Ministers want rid of Lord Clonmell from the Bench, but that 'he will be amply rewarded for his demerits ... , [as they] by no means wish to discourage others from pursuing his steps.' There is more discussion of the Kildare magistracy and the need to implement a recent act to restrain the immoderate use of spirits by the lower classes. William Ogilvie offers a detailed plan for gradually reducing the volume of debt burdening Leinster's estates. A[rchibald] Hamilton Rowan writes in December apparently to commend the Society of United Irishmen, whose object he says is no more than parliamentary reform, and Capt. John Brown writes about the Royal Canal and its potential benefit to Leinster's estate at Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

17 sheets.

MS 41,552 /32

1791-1820

Original bundle of letters from female members of the Fitzgeralds to Miss Charlotte Burgh, Nassau Street, Dublin; York, etc., returned to the 3rd Duke of Leinster by a friend of her's in 1842.

15 sheets.

MS 41,552 /33

Jan.-May 1792

First half of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster from his sisters, the Countess of Bellamont and Lady Charlotte Strutt,

his brothers, Lord Edward (expressing his determination to sell his commission and leave the army) and Lord Robert (endorsed 'about Switzerland and France'), his step-father, William Ogilvie (about obtaining a loan of £17,000 for Leinster at the reduced rate of interest of 5%, and about family affairs generally), the 2nd Lord Hawke (about a reduction, also to 5%, in the rate of interest payable on his loan to Leinster), James Napper Tandy (about the possibility of a by-election for Dublin City), Rev. Robert Fowler (requesting a subscription for the organ of St. Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Dublin, [of which Fowler was Vicar]), and Thomas Conolly (outlining his ideas for the way in which 'an Irish Whig Protestant landlord' should respond to the schemes of parliamentary reform and Roman Catholic Relief afloat in early 1792. Other correspondents are Lord Charlemont and C.J. Fox. 25 sheets.

MS 41,552 /34

June-Dec. 1792

Second half of the original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster. The correspondents include Thomas Burgh of Oldtown (who resigns huffily from something), Lady Louisa Conolly (wife of Thomas, and Leinster's aunt, who describes an altercation between her brother, Richmond, and Lord Lauderdale in the House of Lords which almost led to a duel), Lord Robert Fitzgerald (about his marriage and marriage settlement), William Ogilvie and the Dowager Duchess of Leinster (strongly inveighing against the government for dismissing Lord Edward from the army), Archibald Hamilton Rowan, James Stewart and the Presbyterian Synod of Ulster (thanking Leinster for his help in obtaining an increase in their parliamentary grant), and Richard Griffith of Millicent, Co. Kildare, and Joseph Pollock (who both discuss the conservatism of the Whig Club on the Catholic Question and exchange proposals with Leinster for the formation of a new Association of the Friends of the Constitution).

28 sheets.

MS 41,552 /35

1793

Original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, several of them about the Co. Kildare militia and magistracy and about financial help for the distressed cotton manufacturers of Prosperous, Co. Kildare. Major John Doyle writes on behalf of the Prince of Wales to commend the published resolutions of what is described as 'the Duke of Leinster's Association' and Leinster's ideas on Ireland generally. Ogilvie writes in the same vein, but also expresses in a number of letters his fears of the indiscretion of Lord Edward's Republican language; he warns that Lord Edward is being closely watched and is pursued by 'bloodhounds'. The General Committee of the Roman Catholics of Ireland write to seek permission to erect a statue of George III on Leinster Lawn. William [Dickson], Bishop of Down discusses the subscription to pay Fox's debts, which 'are as unlimited as his genius'. Lord Charlemont writes about the Convention Bill, originally 'threatened by Lord Dillon, and now sponsored by Lord Chancellor FitzGibbon; also about holding a meeting of the Whig Club before the session closes. Other

correspondents are Lords Charles and Robert Fitzgerald, Lord Blayney, Archibald Hamilton Rowan, Sir John Hort. of Hortlands, Co. Kildare, and John Donovan (who encloses – not found – pro-Catholic resolutions voted by the gentlemen of Co. Wexford.)

31 sheets.

MS 41,552 /36

Jan.-June 1794

First half of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, mostly about the raising of the Co. Kildare Militia and the selection of its officers (for both of which Leinster had responsibility as Governor of the county and Colonel of its Militia). The principal correspondents are John Wolfe of Forenaghts, Naas, the Lieutenant-Colonel, and Thomas Tickell, one of the majors. Another correspondent, Charles Aylmer of Painstown, Donadea, recommends for a commission his son, William [who was then or later a United Irishman and a rebel leader in 1798]. Additionally, Archibald Hamilton Rowan encloses (not found) a 'Narrative' justifying his conduct, and S[yvester] Douglas (the new Chief Secretary) writes recalling his youthful Grand Tour friendship with Leinster.

20 sheets.

MS 41,552 /37

July-Dec. 1794

Second half of the original bundle, also almost entirely about the Kildare Militia. Some letters relate to the need for a new courthouse in Athy, which may or may not be bound up with the decision to make Athy the HQ of the Militia. The principal correspondent is General R[obert] Cuninghame (the Commander-in-Chief), and there are also a few letters from the 10th Earl of Westmorland (Lord Lieutenant) and Dublin Castle officials.

23 sheets.

MS 41,552 /38

Jan.-May 1795

First third of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, mostly about his relations with the short-lived administration of the 4th Earl Fitzwilliam and about the Kildare Militia. In January, Leinster writes to Fitzwilliam declining to move the address in the House of Lords on the ground that he disapproves of the decision to bring over the Irish Jacobite regiments from France and allow them to serve with the British army under their foreign officers. A letter from his sister, Lady Charlotte Strutt, imputes the *débaçle* of the Fitzwilliam administration to the ambition of the Ponsonsby, particularly George Ponsonby. Other correspondents are C.J. Fox and the Roman Catholic Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, Richard O'Reilly and John Thomas Troy.

15 sheets.

MS 41,552 /39

June-July 1795

Second third of the original bundle, mostly about Leinster's relations with the new Lord Lieutenant, the 2nd Earl Camden, and his Chief Secretary, Thomas Pelham [who had held that office in 1783-4], the

Kildare Militia, murder and other outrages in Co. Kildare, etc. Correspondents include Camden and Pelham, Lord Chancellor FitzGibbon (now Earl of Clare), who writes about the supineness of the magistrates at Kilcock, Richard Griffith of Millicent, Wogan Browne [of Rathcoffey] and the Duchess of Leinster.
24 sheets.

MS 41,552 /40

Aug.-Dec. 1795

Last third of the original bundle, covering much the same ground but with the addition of letters from Archbishop Troy, Lord Chancellor Clare, Richard Strange and others about the new Roman Catholic seminary and lay school to be set up under the recent act of Parliament on Leinster's estate at Maynooth. Another letter relates to the flourishing state of the Athy market. A London portrait-painter called Richard Bull refers to his recent portrait of Thomas Conolly, of which he proposes to make an engraving dedicated to Leinster. Other correspondents include the Duchess of Leinster and the Comte de Jarnac [a French emigré with Irish connections, who had been brought up at Carton and later married Lady Isabella Fitzgerald, one of Leinster's daughters].

33 sheets.

MS 41,552 /41

Jan.-June 1796

First third of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster. Some of them are about registering freeholders, appointing a Co. Kildare sheriff, vacating seats and other measures connected with the next general election (in Dublin City as well as Co. Kildare). Others, from Archbishop Troy and Dr Thomas Hussey [Roman Catholic Bishop of Waterford] are about Maynooth. The Co. Kildare Canal Company and the progress of the Royal Canal also feature. There are a couple of letters, from George Ponsonby and others, recommending people for the newly created assistant barristership for Co. Kildare. Letters from Camden, Pelham and the Duke of York, Horseguards, London, relate to Kildare Militia and other military dispositions. Family finances are also discussed: Christopher St George of Tyrone, Co. Galway, writes 2 letters about the potential for a lawsuit [over the St George inheritance, part of which had gone to the Duchess of Leinster, who was the daughter of the one and only Lord George]; Lord Edward Fitzgerald needs to borrow money; and Lord Henry cannot obtain the use of £2,500 of his marriage portion because in 1784 and 1786 he went joint security with Leinster for money which Leinster borrowed.

31 sheets.

MS 41,552 /42

July-Oct. 1796

Second third of the original bundle, relating almost entirely to military arrangements and largely composed of letters from Camden, Pelham and other Dublin Castle officials. In September plans for raising county fencible corps are much mooted, and Leinster's proposals on this subject differ somewhat from those of government. In October he protests that *The Freeman's Journal*, a Dublin newspaper in

government pay, has called his loyalty into question, and Camden hastily promises that a contradiction will be published. From October, almost all the letters relate to the raising of yeomanry corps in Co. Kildare, with particular reference to Athy and vicinity.
24 sheets.

MS 41,552 /43

Nov.-Dec. 1796

Last third of the original bundle, mostly about the raising of yeomanry corps, particularly at Athy, Carbury, Clonard, Kilcock and Rathangan. Leinster is forward in recommending Roman Catholics to captaincies of yeomanry, notably Wogan Browne and Ambrose O'Ferrall of Ballyna, Clonard (Camden accepts the recommendations of Browne with obvious reluctance). Particular difficulties arise over Leinster's command of the Athy corps and its compatibility with his colonelcy of the Kildare Militia.
26 sheets.

MS 41,552 /44

Jan.-5 Apr. 1797

First third of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, almost all of them about the Kildare Militia, the Kildare shrievalty, the Athy Yeoman Cavalry, Leinster's disapproval of a proclamation issued by General [George] Lake, etc. The principal correspondents are Camden, Pelham, Major Thomas Tickell (who is succeeded in his majority by Ambrose O'Ferrall of Ballyna), Lady Charlotte Strutt, and James Spencer of Rathangan, Leinster's agent. There are also a number of rough copies of Leinster's out-letters.
25 sheets.

MS 41,552 /45

ca. 25 Apr.-ca. 15 May 1797

Second third of the original bundle, containing a copy of a requisition (of which the top signatory is Leinster) to the Sheriff of Co. Kildare calling upon him to summon a county meeting on the 29th to address the King to dismiss his current Ministers and take measures to restore internal and external peace. Leinster's promotion of this measure leads to increasingly frosty correspondence between Camden and him, in the course of which Leinster is dismissed or resigns from his civil and military offices, and is replaced as Colonel of the Kildare Militia by the Lieutenant-Colonel, John Wolfe. There is also a shorter run (3 items) of similar correspondence between Leinster and the acting Commander-in-Chief, Lord Carhampton. A précis of all these papers has been made by the late Mrs Lena Boylan of Celbridge.
20 sheets.

MS 41,552 /46

May-Dec. 1797

Last third of the original bundle, mostly relating to the deteriorating security situation in Co. Kildare and elsewhere, an address (June) from Leinster, Charlemont, Conolly and W.B. Ponsonby to the Prince of Wales urging him to bring peace to Ireland by assuming the Lord Lieutenancy (with 2 letters from the Prince on the same subject), exchanges between Leinster and Camden about Leinster's claims that

excessive military severities have been exercised in Co. Kildare (with letters from Ambrose O’Ferrall, Robert Johnston of Athy and others on the same subject), the Royal Canal Company, the 1797 general election in Cos. Kildare and Dublin (letters from Robert Latouche of Harristown, Co. Kildare, Colonel John Wolfe and Frederick John Falkiner), a warning from Lord Chancellor Clare (relayed to Leinster on ‘Saturday 25th [Feb., Mar. or Nov.]’) that Lord Edward Fitzgerald must be restrained from running to his own destruction, and Major George Napier’s (Leinster’s uncle-by-marriage) comments on [Arthur] O’Connor’s letter [to the freeholders of Co. Antrim]. By the end of the year, Leinster and his family have quitted Ireland and taken up residence at Bristol.

27 sheets.

MS 41,552 /47

47 Jan.-10 May 1798

First third of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, still in England, partly about the excesses committed by the troops living at free quarters on the Kildare estate, but mainly about financial and legal matters with particular reference to the re-settlement of the estate, which had been mainly necessitated by the sale of the Duchess of Leinster’s share of the St George estate in Counties Roscommon and Galway, and the requirement under the Leinsters’ marriage settlement [of 1775] that alternative security be found for the charges created by that settlement. The principal correspondent is Henry Hamilton of Gloucester Street, Dublin, a trustee of the settlement and apparently the family’s chief ‘man of business’. Other letters are from the Duke of Richmond, another trustee, and sundry attorneys. The new Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Ralph Abercromby, writes about military depredations at Athy, and Leinster writes a surprisingly friendly letter to Lord Chancellor Clare refuting allegations which seem to have been aimed at Leinster in Clare’s recent speech on Lord Moira’s motion in the Irish House of Lords. On 23 April, William Ogilvie reports that Lord Edward is in Hamburgh, but has promised his mother, the Dowager Duchess, that he will not go to France. Ogilvie also reports that Conolly has had to resign [from the colonelcy of the Co. Londonderry Militia] ‘on finding that a severe attack of the asthma disqualified him from doing the duty’.

18 sheets.

MS 41,552 /48

12 May-Aug. 1798

Second third of the original bundle, relating almost entirely to free quarters in Co. Kildare, the rebellion, the murder by rebels of James Spencer, the agent, the death and funeral of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the bill of attainder against him which, if passed, will mean that his estate is forfeited to the Crown, Conolly’s advice that Leinster should return to Ireland where his presence at Carton would do much to pacify the county, etc. Henry Hamilton is again a principal correspondent, but in these months, having been appointed agent in succession to the murdered James Spencer, he writes solely about the state of Co. Kildare. Other correspondents are Lady Louisa Conolly (who was

particularly active in trying to save Lord Edward's estate for his widow and children [see MS 41,552 /50]), the Duke of Richmond, Robert Stewart, Lord Castlereagh [acting and soon-to-be substantive Chief Secretary], etc. At the end of August, Leinster returns to Ireland, where he remains. [While they were in England, his wife had died.]
29 sheets.

MS 41,552 /49

Sep.-Dec. 1798

Last third of the original bundle, containing much about the attainder, and also about Leinster's personal finances and estate affairs, his relations with the 1st Marquess Cornwallis (Lord Lieutenant), the affairs of Thomas Fitzgerald of Geraldine, Athy, Co. Kildare (who has put in a claim for losses during the Rebellion, and whom Clare refuses to restore to the commission of the peace because Clare is satisfied that he was a rebel), and the negotiations for the marriage of Leinster's daughter to Sir Charles Ross, a Scottish landowner currently serving with his regiment in Ireland. Correspondents include Cornwallis, the Dowager Duchess of Leinster, Thomas and Lady Louisa Conolly, Henry Hamilton and Thomas Coutts (banker, The Strand, London).
34 sheets.

MS 41,552 /50

May 1798-July 1802: 1808: 1816

Original bundle of letters and papers about the attainder of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and the family's efforts to get his forfeited estates restored to his children. The papers all derive from his aunt, Lady Louisa Conolly, who because of the widespread affection she inspired was chosen to take the lead in negotiating with the government on the subject. The principal correspondent, 1798-1801, is Lord Clare, who had a soft spot for her and was as helpful as his situation and the enormity of Lord Edward's offence would permit. Others are Richmond, Leinster and an attorney called Charles Croker of Mary Street, Dublin. One of the 2 items of 1808 is a letter from the Dowager Duchess to her daughter, Lady Isabella de Chabot, advising her to ask Pamela, Lady Edward Fitzgerald (now Mrs Pitcairn [see MS 41,552/55]) 'for your money. She is not a person to have any delicacy about. ... I should feel very indifferent about hearing from her but as the means of knowing something of the dear child [young Pamela]!' The item of 1816 is a letter from the Prince of Wales's (now Prince Regent) Secretary, Colonel John McMahan, who replies to Lady Louisa on behalf of the Prince. Also included is a copy of Lord Edward's will, 27 May 1798, and a list of his debts and a rental of the estate (ca. £800 per annum). At the top of the bundle is a parchment label stating that the contents were 'given by Lady Louisa Conolly to the Duke of Leinster'.
37 sheets.

MS 41,552 /51

Jan.-Feb. 1799

First third of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster about the terms of the settlement to be made on Lady Mary's marriage to Sir Charles Ross, about Kildare estate leases and other business,

about continuing robberies, outrages and military excesses in the county, about Sir Fenton Aylmer's resolve to stand at the next county election, about Pamela (Lady Edward) Fitzgerald's shortage of money, and about the Union (which Leinster opposes); Conolly, in a forthright letter of 19 January, expresses his determination to support it, while the 3rd Lord Holland writes on 23 January expressing the hope that he may use Leinster's proxy against it in the British House of Lords. Correspondents include Thomas Coutts, Sir Charles Ross, Henry Hamilton and Maurice Keatinge of Narraghmore, Co. Kildare.
32 sheets.

MS 41,552 /52

Mar.-June 1799

Second third of the original bundle, mostly relating to the same topics (particularly the Fitzgerald-Ross marriage) but with the addition of correspondence about Leinster's and/or his tenants' claims for compensation for losses suffered in the Rebellion, and of a letter about disputes and suspected treachery to Leinster within the Corporation of Athy. Correspondents include Lord Robert Fitzgerald (writing from Copenhagen), Henry Hamilton, Thomas Coutts, Sir Charles Ross, Maurice Keatinge (about the Union and the next Co. Kildare election) and the Dowager Duchess of Leinster.
36 items.

MS 41,552 /53

July-Dec. 1799

Last third of the original bundle, covering much of the same ground but with some references to Leinster's Athy yeomanry corps to the Quaker meeting house at Castledermot. The Dowager Duchess recounts a chance encounter with the Prince of Wales, who spoke most cordially about Leinster but 'looked ill, bloated and the sweat pouring down his face like our Charles [Lord Charles Fitzgerald, now Lord Lecale, who was a drunkard]. Lord Henry writes reproachfully about Leinster's failure to release him from their joint security and Lord Robert writes at length in support of the Union. Other correspondents are Lady Sophia Fitzgerald (Leinster's unmarried sister who, like Lord Henry, has a financial grievance against him). Lady Charlotte Strutt, Henry Hamilton, Colonel E.B. Littlehales [private secretary to Lord Cornwallis, and subsequently Leinster's son-in-law], Maurice Keatinge and Elizabeth [Berkeley Lady Craven and] Margravine of Bayreuth.
38 sheets.

MS 41,552 /54

Jan.-May 1800

First half of an original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, mainly about the Union, family finances, Kildare estate business and military dispositions for that county. The Dowager Countess of Portarlington writes guardedly about the sale of a borough [Portarlington], ND (but apparently early 1800). Lady Charlotte Strutt and her husband, J[oseph] H[olden] Strutt of Terling, Essex, write about the Union, Strutt's hopes of a peerage and Lady Charlotte's still unpaid marriage portion. Lord Henry writes again about his joint security with Leinster, but also tries to patch up their relationship, Lord Robert

laments his and Leinster's disagreement over the Union, and briefly puts forward the suggestion that he (Lord Robert) should stand for Co. Kildare. Sir Laurence Parsons, 5th Bart., proposes a plan for concerted action by the anti-Unionists early in the parliamentary session; and, after it has become plain that the Union will be carried, Walter Borrowes offers himself as a candidate for Co. Kildare who would also be representative of the Irish mercantile interest in a United Parliament at Westminster. Colonel Littlehales and others write about military matters, and Henry Hamilton about the Co. Kildare estate. There is also a run of letters from John Joseph Henry of Straffan, Co. Kildare, about his courtship of and engagement to Leinster's daughter, Lady Emily. [For an earlier letter from Henry outlining his political principles in mid-1797, see MS 41,552 /46.]
36 sheets.

- MS 41,552 /55** July-Dec. 1800
Second half of the original bundle, containing similar material plus letters from Charles Croker re compensation for the disfranchisement of Athy and Kildare, from various correspondents about the death of Lord Bellamont, from the Dowager Duchess about the engagement of Pamela to Mr Pitcairn (who at least is better than Colonel Harcourt), from Lord Clare recommending a coachman, from various correspondents re the next election for Co. Kildare, etc. As usual, Henry Hamilton writes about the estate. Other correspondents are the 1st Lord Tyrawly, the 2nd Viscount Harberton and the 2nd Earl of Moira.
46 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /56** 1801
Original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster, including a letter from him to the Rev. G[ilbert] Austin [Woodville, Lucan, Co. Dublin?], to whose school Leinster is sending his two sons. Another is from C.J. Fox to Leinster (18 Mar.) about Catholic Emancipation, which Fox thinks the opposition should take up now that Pitt has deserted it. Most of the other letters are about canvassing and freeholder-registration for the next Co. Kildare election, for which Lord Robert Fitzgerald and Robert Latouche seem to be combined candidates against Colonel Wolfe. The principal correspondent is Colley Grattan, who may be the clerk of the peace and certainly is in charge of Leinster's registries.
20 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /57** 1803
Original bundle of letters to the 2nd Duke of Leinster mainly about law and order, recruitment, yeomanry and barracks in Co. Kildare. Wogan Browne writes about the effort needed to find men for both the militia and the army of reserve. There are a number of references to Robert Emmet's insurrection of 23 July. Henry Hamilton writes about estate affairs, and Lord Robert Fitzgerald and William Ogilvie about the death of Lord Lecale's son, Henry. [Leinster himself died on 20th Oct. 1804].
27 sheets.

- MS 41,552 /58** 1812: 1814-16
 Letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster [who came of age on 21 Aug. 1812] from his uncle [and former guardian?], Lord Robert Fitzgerald, the 4th Duke of Richmond [his cousin] and Richmond's successor as Lord Lieutenant, Earl Whitworth, the Lord Mayor of Dublin (John Claudius Beresford), William Ogilvie, the 2nd Earl Grey and [the Hon.] Charles [Lindsay], Bishop of Kildare. Lord Robert gives him brief advice about political conduct, Lady Sophia Fitzgerald pleads for an additional allowance for Lord Edward's daughters (who have been in her care all these years). Richmond and Whitworth write about Co. Kildare offices (the latter in the negative). Ogilvie whinges about money (following the death of the Dowager Duchess in 1814), Beresford offers on behalf of Dublin Corporation £10,000 and £600 per annum for Leinster House (1814), Grey accepts Leinster's proxy (1815), and the Bishop writes about Walterstown glebe, Co. Kildare.
25 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /59** Sep. 1818-Mar. 1820
 Amalgam of two original bundles of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster about a variety of estate, financial and public affairs, including the tolls of Athy (1818), the reversal of the attainder of Lord Edward Fitzgerald (1819), parliamentary and other reform (1819), the Farming Society of Ireland (1819-20), the loyal declaration of the freeholders of Middlesex (1820), a new road at Celbridge, Co. Kildare (1820), and the Kildare Place Society (1820). Correspondents include the 3rd Earl Talbot (Lord Lieutenant) and his Chief Secretary, Charles Grant, Sir Francis Burdett, Augustus Frederick Duke of Sussex, the 3rd Marquess of Downshire and Major John Cartwright.
23 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /60** Feb.-Oct. 1827
 Original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster about estate, local government and political matters, including the number of his registered freeholders in Co. Kildare, the affairs of the Co. Kildare Infirmary, the building or rebuilding of Athy gaol, the establishment of a parochial school for Kildare town at the instigation of Rev. Patrick Brennan, PP, Leinster's success in getting Edward Tickell made a KC, and the proposal of the 6th Duke of Bedford and the 3rd Marquess of Lansdowne that the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland be abolished.
 Correspondents include Brennan, Tickell and Bedford; also Henry Hamilton and his son and successor as agent, John Carlow, who writes about [hare?] coursing.
24 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /61** Apr.-May 1831
 First half of an original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster, mainly about a forthcoming Kildare election, the Reform Bill and the pretensions of the 2nd Lord Cloncurry [of Lyons, Co. Kildare, and Maretimo, Blackrock, Co. Dublin] to a UK peerage (which Leinster strongly supports). Lord William Fitzgerald, Leinster's brother and one

of the sitting members for Co. Kildare, declares his intention of standing down at the next election, which induces others to come forward – General [Sir?] G[eorge?] Cockburn, R. More O’Ferrall of Ballyna, and Capt. W[illiam?] Fitzgerald [Lord Edward’s son], writing from Marseilles. The Marquess of Tavistock denies Leinster’s assertion that the Whigs have been ‘tardy’ over reform. Lord Cloncurry expresses his distaste for O’Connell and his ‘tail’ and ‘mob popularity’, and recites at length his own services and sufferings in the Whig cause. Lord Holland opines that Cloncurry’s ‘conduct has been most honourable and useful’, and the Prime Minister, Lord Grey, expresses an inclination to promote Cloncurry when other engagements for UK peerages permit. Rev. Andrew MacDermott, PP of Kilcloon, Co. Kildare, extracts a subscription of £10 from Leinster towards the building of a new chapel.

24 sheets.

MS 41,552 /62

Aug.-Dec. 1831

Second half of the original bundle containing further correspondence about reform and Cloncurry’s pretensions, with a good deal about Leinster’s promotion to the Privy Council, his acceptance of the Order of St Patrick and his appointment to the newly created Lieutenancy of Co. Kildare (with letters and papers about the consequential arrangements for the new form of local government and for filling all the new offices below that of Lieutenant). Correspondents include Cloncurry, Grey, Holland and the 1st Marquess of Anglesey (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland).

32 sheets.

MS 41,552 /63

1838: 1840-43

Amalgam of 5 small, original bundles of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster about Co. Kildare patronage and other patronage matters, John D’Alton’s *History of Co. Dublin* (1840), the Central Loan Fund Board (1841), Leinster’s support of the [temperance movement] of Father Theobald Mathew (who writes a short letter about this, 1841), O’Connell’s mischief-making between Lord Cloncurry and Cloncurry’s son and the false accusation that Cloncurry (who says he is 70) is living in concubinage (1842), resolutions, addresses and associations in defence of the Union, in support of the Constitution and the rule of law, and to induce the Queen’s Ministers to be more attentive to Irish affairs (1842-3), and the possible purchase for 1,250 guineas by the Royal Irish Academy of ‘a magnificent collection of Irish manuscripts’ in the possession of Messrs Hodges & Smith [Dublin surveyors] (1843). Correspondents include Field-Marshal Lord Hill (Commander-in-Chief), Lord Plunket (Lord Chancellor of Ireland), Lord Eliot (the Chief Secretary), James Naper [of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath], Maria Edgeworth, the 3rd Marquess of Downshire and the 1st Marquess of Clanricarde.

27 sheets.

MS 41,552 /64

1844

Semi-original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster, mainly about petitions to the Queen and other forms of constitutional agitation in favour of the proposal to hold periodic sessions of the Imperial Parliament in Dublin and otherwise raise the profile of Irish affairs. Other topics are patronage and the delimitation of the petty sessions districts in Co. Kildare. Correspondents include the Rt Hon Anthony Blake, James Naper, the 2nd Earl of Chrlmont, Lord John Russell (who strongly advises against the suggestion of a 'federal union'), Lord Anglesey and Edward Lucas (Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle).
20 sheets.

MS 41,552 /65 Oct. 1844-Jan. 1845
Semi-original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster from Father Theobald Mathew and about subscriptions to and the work of the Father Mathew Relief Fund. Other correspondents are James Haughton and the 2nd Earl Fortescue.
16 sheets.

MS 41,552 /66 Feb.-Mar: July 1851
Original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster mainly about a probable change of government in Great Britain and about the bill to counteract the so-called 'Papal Aggression'. Most of the letters are from the 4th Earl of Clarendon (Lord Lieutenant, 1847-52), and there is also one letter each from the 1st Lord Monteagle and the 1st Lord Brougham.
9 sheets.

MS 41,552 /67 1853
Original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster, mostly about minor estate business, patronage and charity. There are letters requesting financial assistance (which Leinster gives) from Father Mathew, who has had a stroke and is in distress. The 3rd Marquess of Lansdowne wants to know if the Dargan College of Industry is a good cause. Leinster's son, Lord Otho Fitzgerald, corresponds with him about the proceeds from the sale of Lord Otho's commission, and there is also correspondence with Sir James Graham, First Lord of the Admiralty, about naval patronage for Leinster's nephew, Mr Yelverton. Mary Lalor, former tenant (allegedly), of Leinster's at Castledermot, has petitioned the Queen complaining of his harshness and injustice, and there is correspondence about the unravelling of this business. The Comte de Paris visits Carton, and Leinster's domestic chaplain owes money to the master of Dungannon Royal School.
41 sheets.

MS 41,552 /68 1857
Original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster, mostly about the pretensions of W.H.F. Cogan and Lord Otho Fitzgerald to stand for Co. Kildare at the next election and about the response of the magistrates of Co. Kildare to an Act for the redistribution of the constabulary force in Ireland.
15 sheets.

- MS 41,552 /69** July-Dec. 1860
Original bundle of letters to, and printed matter of, the 3rd Duke of Leinster, mainly about C.W. Hemans' plan for a general cattle market in Dublin.
4 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /70** 1861
Original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster about the Dublin cattle market, the Kildare Militia and other aspects of local government in the county, the raising of subscriptions to fund prizes in the Queen's Colleges (Leinster subscribes £300), Lord John Russell's intention of selling the Irish estate [at Navan, Co. Meath] which he has inherited from his brother [Lord Odo], the Prince of Wales's visit to Carton, etc.
33 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /71** 1862-3
Amalgam of 2 original bundles of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster, mainly about the Kildare Militia, an increase in the endowments of the Queen's Colleges, the Chancellorship of Dublin University, and patronage. Correspondents include Charles Bianconi, Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel (the Chief Secretary), and the 7th Earl of Carlisle (the Lord Lieutenant).
16 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /72** 1871
Original bundle of letters to the 3rd Duke of Leinster, now living in retirement in Kilkea Castle, about his grant of a meeting-room for the Athy Town Commissioners, his resignation on grounds of age and health from the Dublin Literary Club, etc.
7 sheets.
- MS 41,552 /73** 1997: N.D.
Letters to the Hon. Desmond Guinness (subsequent owner of MS 41,552), Leixlip Castle, Co. Kildare, from Mrs Lena Boylan, Celbridge, about the archive and local history.
6 sheets.