

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY**

**Papers, 1840-1914**

**Reels M672 - M673**

**National Library of Ireland  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2 Ireland**

**National Library of Australia  
State Library of New South Wales**

**Filmed: 1956**

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy (1816-1903) was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, the son of a shopkeeper. He became an Irish nationalist at an early age. In 1836 he joined the staff of the *Morning Register* in Dublin and in 1839 he became the editor of the *Vindicator* in Belfast. In the same year he began studying law and he was admitted to the Bar in 1845. In 1842 he settled in Dublin, where he met John B. Dillon and Thomas Davis. Together they founded a weekly newspaper, the *Nation*, edited by Duffy, which combined news with literary criticism, poetry and social and political commentary. It was a spectacular success and was read throughout Ireland. The paper supported the efforts of Daniel O'Connell to repeal the Act of Union, but by 1845 the Young Irelanders had drifted away from O'Connell, considering him to be too moderate. The half-hearted uprising in July 1848 in County Tipperary led to several Young Irelanders being convicted and transported to Australia. Duffy was imprisoned and charged with publishing articles of a treasonable nature, but in 1849 he was acquitted after the fifth trial. He re-established the *Nation* and organised the Tenant Right League, or the League of North and South, to work for land reform. With the support of the League, he was elected to the House of Commons in 1852. However, his efforts to create an Irish Independent Party were unsuccessful, partly due to the opposition of Dr Paul Cullen, the Archbishop of Dublin. He resigned from Parliament and sold the *Nation* in 1855.

In October 1855 Duffy and his family sailed to Australia. He set up as a barrister in Melbourne, but was soon elected to the first Victorian Parliament as a 'radical reformer'. He was Minister for Lands in 1858-59 and 1861-63 and was responsible for the 1862 Land Act. As leader of the free-traders, he was Premier and Chief Secretary in a coalition ministry in 1871-72. He was knighted in 1873 and awarded the KCMG in 1877. He was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in 1877-80.

Duffy returned to Europe in 1880 and settled in Nice in France. He devoted the last twenty years of his life to writing articles on contemporary political issues and books on historical subjects.

Duffy was the author of *The ballad poetry of Ireland* (1845), *Young Ireland: a fragment of Irish history 1840-1845* (1880), *Four years of Irish history 1845-1849* (1883), *The League of the North and South: an episode in Irish history 1850-1854* (1886), *Thomas Davis: the memoirs of an Irish patriot 1840-1846* (1890), *Conversations with Carlyle* (1892), and *My life in two hemispheres* (2 vols, 1898).

One of Duffy's sons, Frank Gavan Duffy, remained in Australia, practised law and eventually became Chief Justice of the High Court (1931-35). Another son, Charles Gavan Duffy, was the Clerk of the House of Representatives (1901-17).

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##### MS 1587

Memorial of Irish Members of Parliament to Pope Pius IX, n.d.

Memorial of Catholic priests of Ireland to Pope Pius IX, n.d. (11pp)

Duffy was one of parliamentarians who signed the first memorial. The two memorials were drawn up in 1854 or early 1855 during the struggle between Irish nationalists and Archbishop Paul Cullen over the involvement of Catholic priests in Irish political affairs. It was intended that the second petition would be brought to Rome by a deputation of priests, but this did not eventuate.

##### MS 3738

Letters from Frederick Lucas (Rome) to Duffy, Dec. 1854 – February 1855

Frederick Lucas (1812-1855) was the editor of the Catholic weekly *The Tablet* and the Member for Meath in the House of Commons. He visited Rome on behalf of the Tenant Right League to protest about the prohibition on Irish priests taking part in political affairs. The lengthy letters describe his mission in detail, including two audiences with the Pope and a heated meeting with Archbishop Cullen.

##### MS 4459

Page proofs of Charles Gavan Duffy, 'Half a century of boons to ungrateful Ireland', *Nineteenth Century*, vol. 14, December 1883, pp 1003-29. (printed with manuscript amendments)

##### MS 4760

Miscellaneous documents including a petition concerning the right to vote of moderators of the University of Dublin, papers relating to the Irish Constitutional Association, and two poems on Charles Gavan Duffy (one dated 1903).

##### MS 5756

Letters to Duffy, 1840-46 (478ff)

The letters mainly relate to Irish politics, the Repeal Association, the affairs of *The Nation*, the formation of the Young Irelanders, and Irish ballads and literature. The correspondents include William Carleton, Thomas Carlyle, Thomas Davis, John B. Dillon, Samuel Ferguson, R.H. Horne, Leigh Hunt, Frederick Lucas, Thomas MacNevin, John Martin, John Mitchel, Daniel O'Connell, John O'Connell and John Pigot.

### **MS 5757**

Letters to Duffy, 1846-54 (429ff)

The letters mainly relate to *The Nation* and the Young Irelanders, the 1848 uprising and its aftermath, the Tenant Right League, and Duffy's election to the House of Commons. The correspondents include Isaac Butt, William Carleton, Thomas Carlyle, William Howitt, James Lalor, Frederick Lucas, Robert McClure, Thomas Meagher, John Stuart Mill, William Smith O'Brien, Samuel Smiles and Sir James Emerson Tennant.

### **MS 8005**

Letters to Duffy, 1855-1902

The 1855-80 letters were mostly written to Duffy in Australia, but the quantity is far less than the earlier and later letters and references to Australia tend to be incidental. The letters refer to the conflict with Archbishop Cullen, the 1855 mission to Rome, Duffy's decision to leave Ireland, his reception by the Irish in Sydney and Melbourne, the return of William Smith O'Brien to Ireland in 1856, literary matters, introductions written on behalf of people visiting Australia, a meeting between Thomas Carlyle and Henry Parkes, British and Irish politics, Duffy's visit to England and Ireland in 1865-66, immigration, Duffy's Land Act, relations between the colonies and Britain, Anthony Trollope's visit to Australia (1871), the possibility of Australian federation (1872), the conferral of the KCMG on Duffy (1877), Sir George Bowen's impressions of Mauritius (1879), and the publication of *Young Ireland*, Duffy's first historical book (1880).

The correspondents include Sir Redmond Barry (Melbourne), Sir George Bowen, William Carleton, Jane Carlyle, Thomas Carlyle, Lord Carnarvon, John B. Dillon, J.P. Fawkner (Melbourne), J.R. Godley, Arthur Helps, R.H. Horne (Melbourne), Mary Howitt, Charles Kingsley, W.E.H. Lecky, Robert Lowe, W. Macready, John Stuart Mill, William Smith O'Brien, Kevin O'Doherty, Thomas O'Shea, Sir James Emerson Tennant, William Thackeray, Anthony Trollope (Melbourne) and Thomas Woolner.

### **Reel M673**

## National Library of Ireland

### MS 8005 (contd.)

Letters to Duffy, 1880-1902

The 1880-1902 letters were written to Duffy when he was living in France or while he was visiting England or Ireland. They deal with his return to Ireland in 1880, Irish Home Rule, the publication of *Young Ireland* (1880), the book's reception in Australia, visitors to Nice, Irish historical writings, recollections of the Young Ireland party and the 1848 uprising, economic and social conditions in Ireland, politics in Victoria, land reform in Ireland, Charles Parnell, pamphlets, articles and other writings by Duffy, and contemporary Irish literature. The quantity of letters diminishes considerably in Duffy's last years. There are also a few drafts by Duffy.

The correspondents include Matthew Arnold, Rev. P. Birmingham (Wagga), Lord Bryce, Lord Carnarvon, Joseph Chamberlain, Archbishop T.W. Croke, Michael Davitt, Lord Dufferin, John Forster, Arthur Geoghegan, W.E. Gladstone, Frederic Harrison, J. Henniker Heaton (Sydney), Sir John Pope Hennessy, D.P. Keogh (Melbourne), W.E.H. Lecky, W.J. Linton, Justin McCarthy, Cardinal Henry Manning, P. Murray, Cardinal John H. Newman, T.P. O'Connor, Richard O'Gorman, Horace Plunkett, Lord Ripon, Thomas O'Shea, Sir Henry Parkes (Sydney), W.P. Ryan, Samuel Smiles, Sir George Trevelyan, Archbishop W. Walsh and W.B. Yeats. The volume ends with a long series of letters from Mary McGhee (Dublin), undated but written to Duffy in the 1840s.

### MS 8098

Correspondence and accounts relating to Duffy's books, 1880-1914

The first group of papers comprise correspondence between Duffy and Cassell Petter, Galpin & Co. concerning the publication of *Young Ireland*, together with agreements, invoices and financial statements, 1880-98. The second group comprises agreements between Duffy and Thomas Fisher Unwin concerning the publication of *The English abroad* (1894), *Young Ireland*, and *My life in two hemispheres*, together with stock accounts, 1894-1914.

### MS 5758

Correspondence with Young Irelanders, 1842-92 (42 letters)

Letters, many of them undated, from Young Irelanders including Duffy, Thomas Davis, John B. Dillon, Frederick Lucas, John Martin, Thomas F. Meagher and William Smith O'Brien. The 22 letters from Duffy are drafts or copies. A letter from O'Brien to O'Flaherty (1852) was written from Van Diemen's Land.

### MS 5886

Accounts by Richard O’Gorman (23 May 1881, 23pp) and T.B. MacManus (n.d.) of the 1848 uprising in Ireland. The MacManus document is only partly legible.