

File 116 11 Dec. 1840
Excerpts from letters of R. H. Bourne to the Bishop
Regarding Kildare and about his brother Theodore

George Dixon had written to the Bishop concerning the site of the church at Kildare. Bourne wants “a speedy decision of the dispute which has arisen.”

“I am surprised at George Dixon having undertaken to address your Lordship upon the subject of his letter”

“... that it had been fully determined to have the Church on Mr. Gass' property on the Ninth Range a subscription list was opened on the spot at the time of meeting when about £30 were subscribed – an entire half of which was subscribed by the Dixons. It appears however that they afterwards became dissatisfied with the decision ... being disappointed in their long cherished hope of having a church on their own premises had subsequently ... raised an opposition”, The Dixons gained a majority of the subscribers and “became clamorous for a change ... and threatened to withdraw ... if the Church were not built on the Eighth Range.”

Bourne had chosen the location on 9th Range and “have reconsidered ...in favor of a change ... that the Church shall be built upon the burial ground on the Eighth Range or convenient to it. The Dixons are very generous & forward in their proposals and perhaps ought to be regarded. The other settlers. I believe are mostly Presbyterians or not decidedly affected in favor of the Church – although regular attendants.”

he had sent a communication from his brother Christopher to the bishop.

“I should inform ... that I returned from New York on the 31st Oct. having been absent including my journey to Quebec about one month. In compliance with the urgent entreaties of my Father & friends and the views expressed by your Lordship I feel it is my duty to lay aside the engagement concerning which I spoke ...Nothing has transpired in consequence that I know of lead me to refute this step – and I feel my mind relieved of a heavy burden,”

“I am daily expecting my brother Theodore (the youngest) from whom I have heard lately a very serious and interesting letter manifesting I think a mark of Divine Grace on his soul, and a deep concern to labour for his own Salvation and a desire to know the will of the Lord onto his future course. He has committed the Mission to me to whom he ascribes and in the Lord mainly of his serious awaking and is anxious to assist me in all ways I have ventured in asking for the goodness of the Lord to send for him – and hope to find him a companion and a fellow labourer - & when I can secure an opportunity I must address your Lordship more fully upon the subject if possible to secure for him some means to further his progress as I hope to be able to employ him as a teacher & Catechist while he is pursuing Study.