

THE CONOLLY ARCHIVE

PATRICK WALSH

and

A.P.W. MALCOMSON

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*In memory of Lena Boylan,
to whom all students of Castletown
and the Conolly family are forever indebted*

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INTRODUCTION

The Conolly archive, which is now dispersed among a number of mainly institutional locations in Ireland, comprises circa 15,000 letters and papers, dating from 1570 to 1953. It derives from the Conolly family of Castletown, Co. Kildare, and mainly relates to William Conolly (1662–1729), Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, 1715–29, William Conolly junior (1706–54), Thomas Conolly (1738–1803), and to the Conolly estates in counties Kildare, Dublin, Londonderry, Donegal, Fermanagh, Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon and Wexford.

The archive is important in Irish national terms because of the prominence of William and Thomas Conolly in eighteenth-century Irish politics. In particular, it is useful in documenting the rise of the Conolly family from obscure origins to its apogee in the mid eighteenth-century, and also its fall through indebtedness, childlessness and bad luck later in the century. While the Conolly estates were scattered across ten Irish counties, the most significant portions were in counties Donegal, Londonderry and Kildare, and these are particularly well documented. The papers appertaining to Donegal and Londonderry also provide excellent insights into the politics of these two counties, in which the Conolly family were long prominent (and in county Londonderry dominant). The day to day management of the Castletown demesne, particularly during the lifetime of Thomas Conolly and his wife, Lady Louisa (1743–1821), and the alterations effected by her on the house, one of Ireland's greatest country houses, are covered in great detail. Unfortunately the Conolly archive contains little information on the construction of Castletown in the 1720s, which means that many of the details surrounding it remain, much to the frustration of successive architectural historians, shrouded in mystery. The Conolly archive does, however, provide much of the context for its construction through the extensive surviving papers, political, personal and financial, of its builder William Conolly.

The Conolly archive was located at Castletown until the 6th Lord Carew, who had inherited it from his maternal uncle Major E.M. Conolly, sold the house in 1965. Prior to this sale all or some of the papers were the subject of a 'National Library Report on Special Collections' (No. 314), which provided a brief outline of their content. In 1966, Lord Carew divided the papers and most generously donated them to three major repositories as follows:

1. The eighteenth-century political and personal correspondence (but including much estate correspondence, and also Castletown account books), 1683–1900, to Trinity College, Dublin (MSS 3939–84A).
2. The eighteenth century estate papers (deeds, leases, rentals, accounts, etc) for the Conolly estates in the now Northern Ireland (specifically, in Co. Londonderry) to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast (D/2094).
3. The same in respect of the estates (principally the Ballyshannon estate, Co. Donegal) in the now Republic of Ireland, to the National Archives, Dublin, which also received the wills and testamentary papers deriving from the Conolly and related families (M.6917).

These three categories overlap at almost all points due to shortcomings in the original 'sort' made in 1966. However, the more serious shortcoming of this well-intentioned plan (apart from the doubtful principle of making a division in the first place) was that it was incomplete; circa 3,000 papers and volumes (including some more Castletown account books) were not included, having been overlooked and left behind in the house. There they were found at various times following the Hon. Desmond Guinness's purchase of Castletown in 1967, and have been given the name 'Castletown Papers' in order to distinguish them from the rest. The first *c.* 1,000 of them to come to light were microfilmed in the early 1970s by the National Library on its own behalf and that of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.¹ The present list incorporates the listing and calendaring done by PRONI at that time, but covers the entire *c.* 3,000 documents. The Castletown Papers are now the property of the Castletown Foundation, and are currently deposited in the Irish Architectural Archive in Dublin.

In addition, some 150 letters and papers, 1760–1822, deriving from Thomas Conolly and his executors and trustees, have found their way into a cache of Fitzgerald, Dukes of Leinster, papers sold by the Hon. Desmond Guinness to the National Library in 1997 (Acc. 5493). They may have got mixed up with these Leinster papers as a result of an early nineteenth-century muddle. But the likelihood is that the muddle occurred only in recent years. The Conolly material has now been separated out, and bears reference MS 41,341.

Finally the National Library acquired two volumes of letters in 1998, including letters from Thomas and Lady Louisa Conolly about the 1798 rebellion.² These volumes, now bearing references MS 34,922 and MS 40,242, previously formed part of the collection of the late Mr B.Y. McPeake, who had purchased them from the Bunbury family. It seems likely that these letters arrived in the Bunbury collection through the agency of Lady Louisa Conolly's niece, Emily Napier, who married Sir Henry Edward Bunbury in 1830. Material pertaining to the Conolly family has been extracted from this collection and calendared below.

As well as these six major collections there are several smaller collections of papers which have been detached from the main Conolly archive at various times. These smaller collections either in public repositories (particularly the National Library of Ireland and PRONI) or in private collections are detailed in an appendix at the end of this volume. This introduction continues with a brief historical introduction to the Conolly family, before embarking on a detailed introduction to the six major collections of Conolly papers listed in the volume.



HISTORY OF THE CONOLLY FAMILY

WILLIAM CONOLLY (1662–1729)

William Conolly was born in Ballyshannon, county Donegal in 1662. His father Patrick has been variously described as a publican, blacksmith or miller but this seems improbable.³ Both Conollys were sufficiently prominent to be attainted by James II's parliament in 1689, while William was a practicing attorney in Dublin in the 1680s. The Williamite revolution was to prove a watershed in William Conolly's career, providing opportunities for enrichment and advancement. In 1691, he became legal agent to Derry Corporation, acting on their behalf in

PART I

THE
CASTLETOWN PAPERS

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THE CASTLETOWN PAPERS

(Currently deposited by the Trustees of the Castletown Foundation in the Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 where the list which follows was compiled.)

Reference	Description
A/1–12	Personal and political letters and papers of members of the Conolly and Conyngham families, 1696–1801
B/1–10	Legal papers, accounts, etc, mainly relating to William Conolly's early career as an attorney and agent, 1614–1724
C/1–50	Deeds, letters and papers relating to the Conolly and Conyngham estates in Cos. Donegal and Londonderry
D/1–26	Deeds, leases, accounts, etc, relating to the Conolly estate of Rathfarnham and to Conolly lands elsewhere in Co. Dublin and in Dublin City, 1607–1782
E/1–24	Deeds, leases, case papers, etc, about the Conolly estates in Co. Kildare, mainly Castletown and Leixlip, 1570–1862
F/1–6	Deeds, leases, etc, about Conolly estates elsewhere in Ireland and in England, including the Conyngham estate at Slane, Co. Meath (1696–1728), 1650–1827
G/1–18	Deeds, vouchers and other papers relating to settlements, mortgages, debts, wills and general matters of Conolly family finance.
H/1–16	Rentals of the Co. Kildare estates, outsize rentals of all the estates, and outsize maps, 1684–1945
J/1–11	Castletown household and demesne account books, and accounts for personal and domestic expenditure, 1697–1938

A/	DATE	DESCRIPTION
A/1-12	c.1696-1801: 1833: 1890	PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MEMBERS OF THE CONOLLY AND CONYNGHAM FAMILIES, AS FOLLOWS:
A/1/1	2 May, 9 William III	Patent appointing William Conolly Collector of the Revenue for Londonderry and Coleraine.
A/2/ 1-2	[c.1714?]: 17 Jan., 4 George I [1718]	Badly damaged and/or seriously incomplete patents appointing William Conolly a Commissioner of the Revenue and a Lord Justice.
A/3/ 1-54	1708-29	Political letters and papers of William Conolly, as Speaker of the House of Commons, a Lord Justice, First Commissioner of the Revenue, and Governor of and M.P. for Co. Londonderry, including correspondence with Lords Lieutenant, Secretaries, etc.
A/3/1	26 May 1708	Account of expenses for entertainment at a court held at 'Navin' (£3 17s. 7d.), mostly for drink.
A/3/2 A-B	[1713?]	Memoranda by one Trotter about an election in some unspecified constituency. William Conolly is to get the following Co. Donegal people to attend the election; Mr Folliott, Mr Gilbert Eccles, Mr Cotnam, Dr Maddin and Mr Saunders. He is to ask Charles Eccles to do the same, and is to speak to Robert Spence and get him to send Alexander and James Hogg to the election. Conolly is also to find out from '... Mr Saunders whether tenants for the lessor's life have votes, and whether a verbal grant without writing can make a freehold, the grantee being in possession; [also] that he [Saunders] may be here at the election to resolve doubts of this kind in Sir John's behalf. ...'
A/3/4	14 Feb. 1718 [19]	Richard Conyngham to Mrs Conolly referring to the number of bankruptcies among merchants, and asking her to use her influence with 'Lord Conolly' to get Lt William Napier's pension paid promptly, as Napier has assigned this money to Conyngham.
A/3/5	14 Feb. 1718 [19]	Colonel John Corry, Castle Coole, [Co. Fermanagh.], to his Excellency, Lord Justice Conolly, Dublin. Complaining that the quitrent of part of his estate in Co. Longford, which was at one time reduced, has now been re-set at a figure which is beyond all reason, and asking Conolly to use his influence on Corry's behalf. [Missing]

- A/3/6 16 Feb. 1718 'Arrears due by the several common brewers summoned to appear
[19] before his Majesty's Chief Commissioners of Excise ...'
- A/3/7 8 Mar. [1718?] Bruen Worthington to Conolly, Dublin.
'... J. Corry[s?] and [?] my cause this day without a division
[sense?].'
- A/3/8 16 Mar. 1718 Margaret Smith to her 'brother', William Conolly, Dublin asking
for a pass for the bearer, who is going to London.
- A/3/9 [pre-June 1719] Two lists of members of the House of Commons 'in employment',
A-B the first endorsed by William Conolly: 'The copy of this given
L[or]d. L[ieutenant]. before the parliament met'.
1. Humphrey May. 2. Thomas Upton. 3. George Macartney.
4. John Chichester. 5. Mervin Pratt. 6. T. Clements. 7. Charles
Delafaye Absent. 8. Samuel Bindon. 9. St. John Brodrick.
10. Edward Southwell. 11. Henry Hawley Esq. 12. Martin Bladen
Absent. 13. Anthony Jephson. 14. William Brodrick. 15. William
Southwell. 16. William Boyle. 17. John Rogerson. 18. Rich.
Molesworth. 19. Dan Reading. 20. Sir Ralph Gore. 21. Gust.
Hamilton. 22. James [To]pham. 23. Owen Wynne. 24. David
[Bi]ndon. 25. Thom. [?]licout [Medlicott]. 26. Robt. Clements.
27. Arthur Hill. 28. Sir Gust. Hume. 29. John Pratt. 30. Rich.
Allen. 31. Rob. Johnson. 32. Maurice Cuff[e]. 33. John Pepper.
34. Stephen Dean. 35. John Usher. 36. Rich. St. George.
37. George Gore. 38. John Parnell. 39. Henry Edgeworth.
40. Will. Conolly. 41. Fred Hamilton. 42. Sir Marcus Beresford.
43. Isaac Manley. 44. Thomas Marley. 45. Michael Tisdall.
46. Thom. Blith. 47. Thom. Trotter. 48. Ld. Fred. Howard
Absent. 49. William Purefoy. 50. Will. Molyneux. 51. James
Forth. 52. Dudley Cosby. 53. Ephraim Dawson. 54. Rob. Pigott.
55. Samuel Freeman. 56. John Weaver. 57. Henry Sandford.
58. William Ormsby. 59. Matt. Penefether. 60. Charles Stewart
Absent. 61. Rich. Stewart. 62. Edward May. 63. Will. Maynard.
64. Ben. Parry. 65. Thom Merideth. 66. Pat. Fox. 67. Edw. Jones.
68. Will. Berry. 69. Hen. Ponsonby. 70. George Ram. 71. Sam.
Whitshed. 72. Edward Webster.

The second is endorsed by Conolly: 'This list for private use.
W.C.'

Wm Brown[low]. Sil. Cross. John Eyre. James Caulfield [sic].
Brent. Spencer. Thom. Burdet. John Beauchamp. St. Ledger
Gilbert. Brin. Butler. David Bindon. Edward Southwell. Francis
Bernard. M. Coghill. S[amue]l Dopping. Hen. Singleton. Edw.
Singleton. [piece missing] [For?]ward. [piece missing]ford. [piece
missing]in. [piece missing]don. [Emmanue?]l Moore. H[ans]
Hamilton. Acheson Moore in France. John Cole. Fred. Trench.

A/3/9A–B *contd.*

Ag. Vesey. Wm. Vesey. Sir Maur. Crosby [sic]. Thom. Crosby. Wm. Crosby. James Barry. Thom. Burgh. Theob. Burgh. Sir Stand. Hartstonge. Sir Robt. Maude. James Agar. Jeffrey Paul. Francis Flood. Edw. Worth. George King. Hen. Edgworth. Rob. Edgworth. Rich. Tisdall. Step. Ludlow. John Bingham. Henry Bingham. John Bliih [Bligh]. Thomas Taylor. Thomas Taylor. Rich. Gorges. Wm. St. Lawrence. Francis Lucass [sic]. Charles Plunket. Thomas Lestrangle. Henry King. Rob. Carew. Thom. Bellew. Will Smith. James Stopford. Nic. Loftus. Edward Jones. Cadw. Edwards. [—] Meredith [Thomas or Arthur?]. [Dr Edward Worth Thrice Noble. [Richard or William Molesworth?]. [—]t. [—]ier. [Michael? Cu]ffe. George Haughton. Phil. Doyne. Rich. Sanders. Rich. Edwards. Char. Boyle, Ld. Bles[inton]. [Only the endorsements are in Conolly's handwriting; the lists themselves are in someone else's.]

A/3/10 8 Mar. 1719
[20?]

Leo. Wilberfoss, Strabane, to Conolly, Dublin apparently about remitting taxes collected to Conolly. 'I received a letter from the board to pay to John Wootton Esq., collector of Londonderry, the balance of cash in my hands, which was as by the last weekly abstract £1506. 5s. 0d. I have this day paid him £1400. I would have paid him more, but had not time to collect where it was owing to me. ...'

A/3/11 25 June 1720

Rough draft of a letter from [William Conolly, at this time a Lord Justice along with the Lord Chancellor Alan Brodrick 1st Viscount Midleton, acting under the newly appointed Lord Lieutenant, Charles Fitzroy, 2nd Duke of Grafton]. Congratulating him on his appointment and discussing the Hon. Capt. Hamilton's desire for a job in Grafton's household. Conolly explains that many people have been applying to him for such jobs, remembering the countenance which Grafton had shown him during Grafton's previous time in the government of Ireland [as a Lord Justice in 1715–17], but Conolly has refused to trouble him on anyone's behalf. Capt. Hamilton, however, is a son of Lord Boyne, and the family is influential in parliament; so he cannot be so lightly refused. Another aspirant for the same job is Major Whitshed, a nephew of the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

A/3/12 2 July 1720

Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin [to the newly appointed Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Grafton]. Offering advice about the person to be appointed Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in succession to John Forster. 'I have the honour of your Grace's of the 25th, and return my humble thanks for the good opinion which your Grace has of me, and it shall be my utmost study never to forfeit the same. And since your Grace has commanded me to write with freedom and [word

- A/3/12 contd.* illegible], I shall upon allowance [?]. ...’ He begins by dealing with Grafton’s queries, apparently about the income which the Lord Lieutenant receives from Phoenix Park. He then goes on to discuss the question of a new Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Forster being gravely ill [in fact he died that day]. The two contenders are Judges Macartney and Gore. Macartney is an honest, well-principled man, who was displaced during Queen Anne’s reign and re-instated at the accession of George I. He is the senior judge, but is old and rather deaf. Gore was Attorney General when Grafton was last in the government of Ireland [as a Lord Justice in 1715–17], and it is usual for the Attorney General to be given one of the Chief Justiceships. Gore has many influential friends and relations who press his pretensions strongly. The difficulty will be jumping him over Macartney. [Missing]
- A/3/13* 5 July 1720 Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the succession to the Lord Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas. A new factor has entered the situation, as the Lord Chief Justice of the King’s Bench [William Whitshed] has informed Conolly that he is anxious to go to the Common Pleas, even though this means demotion. In Conolly’s view, it would be impossible to ignore Whitshed’s pretensions. If he goes to the Common Pleas, this will put an end to the competition between Macartney and Gore, as the former would not be in the running for the King’s Bench. (This draft is endorsed by Conolly: ‘The letter of the 5th was not sent’.)
- A/3/14* [c.5 July 1720] Rough note by Conolly on the whole series of promotions which would take place if Whitshed succeeded as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; in Conolly’s scheme of things Gore is to become Chief Justice of the King’s Bench.
- A/3/15A–B* 29 Aug. 1720 Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the promotions and about the jurisdictional and constitutional disputes between the British and Irish parliaments. He is glad that Grafton accepts the plan to fill up the vacancies, but sorry that he ‘... lies under the difficulties you mention. To answer that the House of Lords would be in better temper before the King’s servants there would make any concessions or give up their employments, etc – this, I think, is very hard, though really my humble opinion is that the House of Lords will be in better temper, for as to the point of jurisdiction, that is over and determined and cannot be returned or repeated, and sure no wise or thinking man will or can stir further in it, especially when they consider they may risk future parliaments and do the nation more mischief than they can ever do them good. So that I cannot but say matters will cool and I hope go easy under your Grace’s administration. But I beg leave to ask if it is not more likely so to

A/3/15A–B *contd.*

do when the king's servants find their friends and acquaintance put into employments. And, further, why should this resentment reach the House of Commons, who never concerned themselves in the Lords' jurisdiction or had anything to do in that matter, but many of them to my knowledge using all their endeavours not to have the Lords commit my L[or]d C[hief] B[aron] and the rest of the Barons, and your Grace will observe that the persons that are here desired to be put into the vacant employments are not Lords but Commoners, and if the Lords have been wrong, must the whole nation suffer for that?

I am a very unfit undertaker but I dare say there is not any that your Grace will use your good offices for, to put into the vacancies, that will put themselves into any hands that will lead them out of the way, but on the contrary in your Grace's and use their utmost endeavours and interest to make all things go easy in both Houses of Parliament, or I assure your Grace I had never mentioned them, and particularly Mr Justice Gore from whom I had all the assurances imaginable before I wrote in his favour ... and discoursed him fully as to the jurisdiction. ...' Whoever told Grafton that Gore and Conolly did not agree in politics last session, told the truth; but it was in the House of Commons about the toleration for Dissenters and not about the jurisdiction. Attached (15B) is a letter from Professor J.L. McCracken to Mrs Lena Boylan, 11 March 1975, in which he draws attention to the significance of Conolly's self description as an 'undertaker'.

A/3/16 24 Sep. 1720

Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the Common Pleas and about the election of Grafton's Secretary, Horatio Walpole, for T.C.D. Conolly '... cannot doubt whoever your Grace has recommended to fill up the vacancies here will succeed, and think they will be entirely in your Grace's interest and merit the favours your Grace confers upon them. ...'

He has spoken to Mr Synge, who has an interest in the College, but no vote himself. '... I have fully discoursed the provost and showed him his Royal Highness's [the Prince of Wales, Chancellor of T.C.D.] letter to your Grace but would not let him make use of it, not knowing how the Prince would be pleased without his giving leave to do so. But I believe there will be no occasion, for the provost is a very honest gentleman and to be depended upon, and is very hearty, and if your Grace thinks fit to write him a line in behalf of Mr Walpole, and to thank those that are for having him elected, it will be of use. And your Grace judges right that the Archbishop of Dublin [William King] may take it ill if he is not wrote [?] to, so that your Grace's desiring [?] his interest with his friends in the College will make the matter easier, and though I believe it will do without it, yet it will be of use. ...' He has written fully to Walpole on the subject.

A/3/17 18 Oct. 1720 Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton expressing strong objections to Grafton's plan for a reshuffle of the highest judicial offices in Ireland, including the Lord Chancellorship.

'I must own I never was more surprised than when I had the honour of your Grace's of the 7th from Evesham [?], with the copy of Mr Secretary Cragg's letter to your Grace, and your answer to him, relating to the dispositions [?] of the law employments, and especially making Lord Chief Baron, Chancellor, that which with great [word illegible] will give universal dislike and dissatisfaction – I mean that my Lord Chief Baron should be Lord Chancellor, after what passed in the House of Lords here. As to Sir R[ichard] Levinge's being Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, that will not be agreeable in this country.

I see [?] it's too late to give my humble advice that, if possible, my Lord Chief Baron may not be Lord Chancellor, for I dread the consequences of it to his Majesty's affairs and the ease of your Grace's administration ... I fear it will not be in the power of your Grace's friends to answer your expectation or be [word illegible] to your service [?] as they are inclined. I have a great value for my Lord Chief Baron Gilbert, and I think for his own sake and the quiet of this kingdom it is [sense hard to follow] here ought most to avoid to be Chancellor. As Sir R. Levinge, all I shall say further about him is that he has little or no interest in the parliament here, and consequently cannot be so useful as some people there imagine. As to Mr Serjeant Reynolds, being a stranger to him I know not what to say. But again [words illegible] my great surprise and concern at these steps as what I am apprehensive may prove very detrimental to his Majesty's interests and administrations [?] in this kingdom. Your Grace's commands and the confidence you are pleased to repose [?] in me shall remain entirely secret [?].

There are many letters to [words illegible] giving an account of all the dispositions [?] mentioned in Mr Secretary Cragg's letter to your Grace, but I hope [hear?] nothing of the hint your Grace gives about [words illegible].

The bad effect of the South Sea has reached this kingdom to a great degree, insomuch that numbers are ruined by it. There has been a run upon all the banks here, who have all hitherto stood it, but our Mr Swift also appears again [?]. We have no manner [?] of trade and the kingdom is quite [?] drained [?] of money, so that [illegible comments on the state of the country]. Our revenue has fallen of late greatly, and where all this will end I cannot tell.' [The patchiness of this transcript is due to the difficulty of deciphering Conolly's handwriting, particularly in a rough draft.]

- A/3/18 3 Dec. 1720 Rough draft letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the proposed re-shuffle of the judicial offices. He acknowledges Grafton's two letters, and says that he will not repeat his previous sentiments, particularly with regard to the suitability of Whitshed for the Chancellorship. It is clear that '... there are a considerable number of people who profess friendship and are sorry for him [Midleton] that would be easy under that affliction and drop him without concern, if it were not for his successor, which I still wish could be anyways prevented; but I must not dwell more on that subject. ...' He refers to the depressed state of the trade of the country, '... which of course must make a great demand next session of parliament here. ...', and thanks Grafton for his favours to Conolly. He concludes with a reference to the mismanagement of the collector of Dublin, who has been replaced by a Mr Arkwright, not upon grounds of favouritism, but purely as a measure which the Revenue Commissioners consider necessary for the sake of the revenue.
- A/3/19 16 Dec. 1720 Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the Lord Chancellorship and other, lesser employments. He gathers from Grafton's letter that the arrangement outlined by Grafton for the Lord Chancellorship is not finally settled. He refers to vacant bishoprics, but assumes that Grafton's hands are so full of parliamentary affairs that he has not time to think of such things. He regrets that, for once, he is unable to comply with Grafton's request in the matter of Mr Topham's employment, and concludes by observing that the whole of the revenue of Ireland is '... scarce sufficient to pay the subsistence of the army'.
- A/3/20 24 Dec. 1720 Rough draft of a letter from Conolly to [Horatio] Walpole [Secretary to Grafton] thanking Grafton for appointing Conolly's nephew, William, to an office [the Cursitorship of Chancery]. Conolly points out that it is not worth more than £200 pr annum, and expresses the hope that it will be granted for 2 lives, as in the previous patent.
- A/3/21 9[?] Jan. 1720
[21] Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about a near-dispute between Conolly and Midleton over the conflicting claims of two rival banks. After lengthy meetings and some dispute they have at last agreed on a report, which they have transmitted to Grafton. The report favours the first bank, but Midleton wanted it to favour the first bank much more strongly. This was the bank which both of them subscribed to '... before my Lord H., etc, set up Sir R. G. ... Mr St. George and Mr [name illegible] are going to London to solicit in behalf of the first bank. ...' Conolly does not know which he ought to recommend Grafton to favour, as both are full of parliament men and men of fortune. [Missing]

- A/3/22 2 Feb. 1720
[21] H[oratio] Walpole, [Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant], Dover Street, [London], to [Conolly], about a bye-election for Coleraine, Co. Londonderry.
'Last Saturday I transmitted to your Excellency a letter I received that morning from Sir William Withers [Governor of the Irish Society] acquainting me that the Society had agreed to recommend Mr Burton to be elected at Coleraine, and I have since expected to have received from their secretary a duplicate of their letter to the corporation for that purpose, when I was told last Tuesday that Sir William Withers died on Monday, which I indeed did not then believe. But it proves too true. Who his successor will be, or whether the Society will continue in the same mind relating to the election of Coleraine, I can't tell. However, I will inform myself about it. In the meantime, any particular directions from your Excellency will be punctually obeyed. ...'
- A/3/23 4 Feb. 1720
[21] Walpole, Dover Street, to Conolly about the Coleraine bye-election.
'When I did myself the honour to write to your Excellency last, I was apprehensive that Sir W. Withers's death would have occasion some alteration in the Coleraine affair, because the secretary who brought me Sir William's last letter, which I sent you, appeared somewhat cool and very inquisitive about Mr Burton. But what I said to him to desire him to bring himself and me the duplicate of the Society's recommendatory letter to the corporation, had the desired effect, and he was accordingly with me yesterday and delivered to me the enclosed [not found], which I think is so worded as cannot fail of success.'
- A/3/24 7 Feb. 1720
[21] Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Walpole about the Coleraine bye-election.
Mr Burton is extremely obliged to Walpole for his trouble on Burton's behalf. However, it appears that, now that Withers is dead, the corporation of Coleraine are trying to wriggle out of the engagement entered into by him. It would be a help if Walpole would send Burton the original of Withers's letter. Conolly concludes by recommending to Walpole a clergyman called Mr Ashe.
[This letter is particularly difficult to decipher.]
- A/3/25 7 Feb. 1720
[21] Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton concerning, amongst other things, the promotion of Judge Gore. He thanks Grafton for his continued favours, but expresses regret that some letter concerning the Lord Chief Baron and Barons of the Exchequer had not been worded in such a way as to obviate 'clamour and observations'. If Lord Chief Baron [Gilbert] is removed to the English bench, Conolly hopes that Grafton will bear in mind the pretensions of Gore to succeed him.

- A/3/26 11 Mar. 1720 Walpole, Dover Street, to Conolly about the Coleraine
[21] bye-election.
‘The many mails that lately arrived together brought me the honour of your Excellency’s letters of 11 and 25 past, and I am very sorry to find by the last of them that the secretary’s letter had no better effect upon the corporation of Coleraine. I shall consider of the best means to relieve [retrive ?] that matter if possible, though I must own to you, I did not like the secretary’s way of talking when Sir William Withers first sent him to me, and as I have not heard anything from him relating to the corporation’s answer to the Society’s letter, I very much suspect his being a friend to the other interest. However, no endeavours of mine shall be wanting to settle this matter right if possible.
I believe the constant hurry and attendance in parliament made me forget to answer your Excellency’s letter of the 7th past, and to let you know that my Lord Lieutenant readily consented to put Mr St. George [Ashe] down in the list of his chaplains. ...
PS. You will receive from my Lord Lieutenant a very extraordinary letter. You will from by [sic] the character and conversation of the person that wrote, be able to judge of the kind of the intelligence.’
[On the side is a rough draft of Conolly’s reply, dated Dublin, 21 March 1720[/21]. This is so heavily abbreviated that it is virtually indecipherable.]
- A/3/27 4 Apr. 1721 Walpole, Dover Street, to Conolly announcing his resignation as Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant and the probability that he will be succeeded by [Edward] Hopkins.
- A/3/ 1720–21: Accounts of the custom revenue of Londonderry for these two
28A–B 1725–6 periods.
- A/3/29 11 May 1721 Rough draft of a letter from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the proposal to replace Lord Chancellor Middleton.
‘This morning I had the honour of your Grace’s of the 6th, acquainting me with the conference your Grace had lately with two of the chief ministers and their proposal of continuing Lord Chancellor, grounded upon difficulties of finding a successor and the disturbances the threat [?] might give to the measures in parliament, which your Grace conceives may be their motive; in which your Grace is pleased to desire my thoughts.
I hope your Grace will pardon me if [I] judge wrong, for I think their proposal determines the matter and of course continues this Lord Chancellor, since a proper successor cannot be found; for the time of doing that had been when it was first spoke of (after the Lord Chief Baron was set [word illegible]), so that by this time whoever was made Chancellor [would have] had time to make

A/3/29 *contd.*

himself acquainted in the people and affairs of the kingdom, [words erased or illegible] to have given your Grace assistance in the King's affairs, and the removing the present lord been quite forgotten. But any successor [?] now, the parliament being so near, I fear would not answer expectations. I make bold to acquaint your Grace that for some time past it has been taken for granted here the present Chancellor would continue, his relation [Thomas Brodrick] and friends in England having [?] sued [?] for, and truly by my observation of his son's [?] conduct, I find he [words illegible] safe.

As to that part relating to the disturbances [?] he might give to matters in parliament, I will not take upon me to say how far they might reach. But I cannot but think with plain war [?] that if he was to be continued his son ... [the passage which follows is particularly difficult to read: it seems to relate to getting a promise of support from Middleton's son, St. John Brodrick, and to the question of whether 'his Lordship' – probably Lord Carteret – can answer for Middleton's own good behaviour.] 'Your Grace knows the son so well that I need not trouble you with my opinion of him [?]. I am very sensible, by the present situation of affairs and the prejudices your Grace has to struggle with, that your Grace is laid under difficulties and cannot do all that is to be wished for at present. ...'

Conolly fears that Middleton's continuance in office will be interpreted as meaning '... that his interest and merit is so great that he could not be removed, nor could the King's affairs be carried on without him. But that and more must be borne. And as to my own particular, I shall never put that [words illegible] in balance with the King's affairs and the ease and quiet [?] of your Grace's administration, but I assure your Grace I have nothing at heart but that. ...'

Upon the whole, I think, if my Lord Chancellor is to be continued, since you do not undertake for him, it is better that the proposal is made to your Grace by the ministers, than by you to them; for 'tis not possible to judge how he'll behave. But if matters were to be conducted ... [this passage, too, is very hard to read: the sense seems to be that if Thomas Brodrick and perhaps Carteret will undertake for Middleton's and St. John Brodrick's good behaviour] it were better than pressing them into the service. But as to this, your Grace is much a better judge, and I hope you'll pardon the freedom I have taken. ...

Brodrick talks now [?] of going over in a few days about his election that is contested.'

A/3/30 8 July 1721

Copy letter [in Mrs Conolly's clearer hand] from Conolly, Dublin, to Grafton about the terms on which Middleton is to retain his office.

A/3/30 *contd.*

'I have the honour of your Grace's of the 29 last, acquainting me with the promises that are made in behalf of our great man. I will not take up your Grace's time on that or about poor Capt. [?] Ram's [?] commission, since I hope to see your Grace soon here, and that you are so good to respite that matter till your Grace's arrival.

As to what your Grace is pleased to mention about the bank, and that the government men will be soon over and that I may have an eye to our friends getting in, I can give no particular answer till I see what methods is [sic] resolved upon. When the charter arrives here I then will trouble your Grace with a letter. In the meantime, I return my hearty thanks for your Grace's friendship about my naming anybody. I am apprehensive that as matters stand circumstanced in this kingdom, through the great scarcity of money and want of trade, it will be with the utmost difficulty that many who are subscribers and others who desire to come in, will be able to raise the first payment, if it be considerable. A little time will show this. What remains at present is to assure your Grace that nobody can be more sensible of all the obligations conferred upon. ...'

A/3/31 20 Aug. [1721] Grafton, Coventry, to Conolly about the election of Grafton's new secretary, Hopkins, for T.C.D.

'I have just time to trouble you for a minute. As Hopkins is my secretary, I hope you will be so good to take the proper measures, that he may have the same honour as was intended Mr Walpole of serving for the University. The Prince has done him the honour to write in his behalf, so that it will not be expected I should write to everybody I did before, whilst I am in the hurry of a journey, and hope to be with you so soon. I pardon parliament for not answering a letter you writ to me some time since, but as I have not writ to anybody upon that subject, in relation to the judge's place, I thought it better to be able to say so when I got over.'

A/3/32 21 Mar. 1723 Francis Alen, Frankfort, post-marked Maynooth, to Conolly, Dublin.

[/4]

He believes that, following the death of Lord Newtown[butler], '... there will probably be a vacancy among the clerks in your Secretary's office: if you are not already engaged, I wish you would give me leave to place my son there a while, not so much for the profit (which I suppose is but £50 per annum), as that I would have him bred to business.'

A/3/33 11 Oct. 1723: Two letters from Lieutenant Ben. Cushin, Strabane, to Conolly, Dublin, asking him to submit the enclosed [not found] application to the Lord Lieutenant (1723), and soliciting a vacant lieutenancy in a grenadier company (1725).
A-B 1724[/5]