April 5, 1879
Good Friday,

The Rev.
T. Butler

(April 4.)

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER,
S.W. April 5, 1879

My dear T. Butler,

I feel constrained by motives which I hope are not unreasonable, to put into your hands a written repetition of a statement made by the Whitehall Review on Feb 13th 1881. It was as follows:

"There is a whispered tradition among the clergy of the vicinity that he proposed to a lady, who afterwards was married to a distinguished poet, a post rejected, from which time began his historic career."

When I saw this I shuddered...
believed the latter source of this fable
was Mr. Petmore, and the channel
of it was Mr. Rouse who was in
close intimacy with him. Mr.
Rouse was believed at that time
to be in communication with
Mr. Micalgez, the author of a series
of scandalous letters on the English
Bishops in the Whig hall review.
I therefore at once decided to speak
to Mr. Rouse. I did so in the
sermon of the pro-cathedral, and
his manner confirmed me in the
belief that he was the channel
at least of the fable to use
no harder word. My statement
of him was as follows.

they historical career began in
1837.
In 1838 a family came to live
in Livingston close to my house a
widow three daughters and a servant.
Except my curate who lived a mile
away there was not an educated
person in my parish.
I had daily service, morning & even-
ing in livingston church. They always
attended. Daily meeting led to visit
Mary. I constantly went to them in
the evening after the evening service
and I used to read books to them.
After a while I feared the possibility of
intimacy being misunderstood.
I therefore said to the mother: "I
ought to tell you that I believe
God has called me to live and die alone in the world: and I am afraid of any misunderstanding. If you see any danger, it will be better to see less of you; but this be known and understood.

She said: "I see no danger."

Later on I was able to say the same in the hearing of the daughter, and afterwards again, when she began to come to conversion to me, I said it explicitly. From that time we corresponded. Not one word in all these letters had reference to any subject whatever of confession or of religious guidance.

In 1857 I became Catholic. I lived for a year or two restrained from becoming Catholic. In 1858 she did so. After that we rarely met.

She had been very intimate with Miss Lockhart's first Abbess at Bray: also with the present Abbess. They both knew all the facts as I have written them.

About 1865 she married Mr. Patmore: and I officiated at the Marriage.

About 1873 a few years after I have no record she died. My letters to her were all laid up and...
years ago, never by word or will have I swerved from the decision to set any day to live in the life of a priest. In 1837 I believe that I was a priest, God in His mercy in 1850 made me to retrace the true path for which I have lived.

I do not think it is any undue sensitiveness that makes me put this statement into your hand with the desire that if this fable bears heart again you will use this letter as you can fit. If it never reappears keep it among my papers which will come to you. Yours affectionately

Henry B. Ward, D.D.
P.S. I made this statement at the time to my Vice-President to Cannon Johnston.