

of Canterbury.<sup>1</sup> He it was who convoked the synod at Rathbresail, at which it was decided to divide Ireland into dioceses: "there," says Keating, "the sees and dioceses of the bishops of Ireland were regulated; Dublin was excluded, because it was not customary for its bishop to receive consecration except from the Archbishop of Canterbury."<sup>2</sup> Limerick and Waterford were placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Cashel, but this decree seems to have been ignored by the people of Limerick, for they elected their next bishop, Patrick, in the ordinary way and sent him to England for consecration.<sup>3</sup> It is uncertain whether the Waterford people obeyed, as the records merely mention the names of the succeeding bishops.

A still more important synod was held at Kells in 1132. There the decision of the previous synod regarding the division of the country into dioceses was ratified, and archbishoprics were established at Dublin, Armagh, Cashel, and Tuam. Henceforth the bishops of Dublin, Limerick, and Waterford were consecrated in Ireland, and this marked the close of the connection between Canterbury and the Celtic Church.

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<sup>1</sup> *Ib.*, p. 504.

Cf. J. MacCaffrey: *The Black Book of Limerick*. Introduction, chs. 5 and 7.

<sup>2</sup> *The History of Ireland*, by Geoffrey Keating (ed. P. S. Dinneen). Vol. III., p. 298.

<sup>3</sup> *Ware, op. cit.*, p. 505.