

BLESSED OLIVER PLUNKETT AND KILKENNY

THE following account of the relics of the Venerable Oliver Plunkett is given by his Eminence Cardinal Moran in the **Seven Hills Magazine**, June, 1906, under the title: "Memorials of Oliver Plunkett":—

(Here follows an account of the head).

"The devoted Sisters of the Order of St. Dominic of St. Mary's Convent at Cabra near Dublin, are also in possession of a venerable relic of the Martyr-Primate. It is portion of the arm-bone, and throughout the whole period of the penal laws was handed down as a precious heirloom from the Most Rev. Dr. Brennan amongst the Archbishops of Cashel.

"SOLEMN DECLARATION CONCERNING THE
AUTHENTICITY OF THE RELIC OF THE VENERABLE
OLIVER PLUNKETT, ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH, NOW
IN THE POSSESSION OF MGR. MORAN, 55 ECCLES
STREET, DUBLIN.

"I solemnly declare the Relic of the Venerable Oliver Plunkett enclosed in a small wooden case faced with glass, and having inserted on the back the words—'Ex ossibus Illustrissimi DD. Oliveris Plunket, Archiepiscopi Armacani,' was formerly the property of Dr. James Butler, Archbishop of Cashel, a native of this town. After his death it remained with his relative and housekeeper, Mrs. Archdeacon, who spent the last years of her life here. Having had the great privilege of being its guardian for the last forty years, I now bestow it on the Very Rev. Mgr. Moran, 55 Eccles Street, Dublin, in order that it should be preserved in future with greater security and reverence. A paper containing the authentication of this Relic was accidentally lost about forty years since, but the Relic has been from time immemorial esteemed and venerated by my friends and

acquaintances as a portion of the precious remains of the above-mentioned Oliver Plunkett, the martyred Primate of all Ireland.

Signed

Margaret Lalor, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny.
9th of November, 1870.

“ We certify that the Declaration written on the other side of this paper is in all respects confirmed by our knowledge of the traditions of this parish. We also certify that Miss Lalor is a member of a most respectable family, and a person whose education, intelligence and piety entitle her to be considered a most trustworthy witness.

Signed

Thomas Walsh, P.P., Ballyragget.
Nicholas Murphy, C.C., Ballyragget.
William Phelan, Ballyragget.
Gerald J. Brennan, Eden Hall, Ballyragget,
Co. Kilkenny.

November 9th, 1870.

“ N.B.—The oldest inhabitant of this parish, a most respectable, intelligent gentleman, affirms there could not be a more credible witness. He knew Mrs. Archdeacon and testifies as to her intelligence and good moral character.

“ N. MURPHY, C.C.”
