



Sir Charles Barrington, Bart.
Harfield,
Botley, Hañts.

*A Letter to Sir Charles Barrington
from William T. Cosgrave**

29th July, 1925

My dear Sir Charles,

Mr. Duggan has, I am sure, informed you that I was unable to pay my promised visit to Glenstal as early as I had expected owing to the fact that the Dáil was prolonged for a fortnight after the date on which it was expected to adjourn.

The Governor General offered to accompany me and we went down to Glenstal on yesterday fortnight. The party included the Governor General, his son Mr. Joseph Healy, Mr. O'Hegarty, Secretary to the Executive Council, Mr. E.J. Duggan and myself. The Governor General brought luncheon baskets. We were met at Glenstal by your steward, Mr. McBean, and he, with the housekeeper, very kindly helped to make our stay at the Castle most enjoyable.

After lunch we were shown over the Castle, the Castle grounds and gardens and despite the fact that it was raining very heavily we made an exhaustive survey of the whole place. Notwithstanding all that Mr. Duggan had told us about the Castle, we were astonished at its magnificence, which far exceeded our expectations.

It is with the greatest personal regret that we feel compelled to refuse your very generous offer. Our present economic position would not warrant the Ministry in applying to the Dáil to vote the necessary funds for the upkeep of Glenstal, especially in view of the fact that we have already on hands the Chief Secretary's and Under Secretary's Lodges in the Phoenix Park, both of which are unoccupied and are a heavy financial burden on the State.

I think you should know that before making this decision I approached the leaders of the different parties in the Dáil, all of whom, in common with the members of the Executive Council, were convinced of the difficulties, in the circumstances of the moment, of accepting your gift while they keenly regretted that it was necessary to decline so magnificent an offer made in a spirit so generous and patriotic.

May I therefore convey from the Executive Council to you, Sir Charles, this expression of sincere thanks for your munificent offer.

Now, having lost Glenstal, may I say that I deeply regret that you are leaving us. Our acquaintance has been short but I have the most pleasant recollections of it and my pleasure is to a considerable extent saddened by the news that you have definitely decided to leave Ireland. I sincerely trust, however, that whenever you are in Dublin you will not fail to call on me so that I may renew an acquaintanceship of which I have many happy recollections.

With best wishes to you and Lady Barrington, and sincere thanks in which I am joined by each member of the Executive Council,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

William T. Cosgrave

* President of the Executive Council.