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Joseph Patrick McDonnell an Friedrich Engels in London. London, Mittwoch, 17. April 1872

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Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der s/w-Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus zwei Bogen Papier. McDonnell hat sechs Seiten vollständig, dabei die dritte Seite quer, und die siebte Seite mit drei Zeilen quer beschrieben; die achte Seite ist leer. McDonnell hat drei Seiten eigenhändig paginiert.

Archivsignatur des Moskauer Marx-Engels-Instituts (IMĖ) auf allen beschriebenen Seiten: „RJ 11a–g“.

Absender: Joseph Patrick McDonnell
Schreibort: London
Schreibdatum: 1872-04-17

Empfänger: Friedrich Engels
Empfangsort: London

| 8 Southboro Terrace. Carlton Grove. Peckham
Wednesday April 17th 1872

My dear Engels

I was very much pleased with the reply to Cochrane[ba]. I only fear that the newspapers will not publish it. I am sorry that the resolution about “the Black swan” “Internationalists”[d] was not carried last night as delays are dangerous. However the delay may be for the better as they are to have another meeting on sunday evening next and we may learn a little more about their intentions. Don’t you think it would be advisable to pack*(?)* their meeting on next sunday evening? The fellows, if not crushed will give a deal of trouble and the rascally newspapers will give their proceedings full publicity. The “Irishman[e]” will in all probability insert the hostile paragraph. Did you see last saturdays edition? It is quite clear that I need expect no justice from The advocate of Justice to Irishmen!! Did you see Ryan[f]’s letter. ? Last night week*(?)* I receive [d] a letter from that ruffian commencing “My dear M[c]Donnell”. This Ryan I befriended in Paris and afterwards | in London. Indeed I took him to my home and then enabled him to get to Liverpool. I am thanked as I deserve. It is a great pity that I cannot bring out a small sheet weekly as The Irishman will be dead against us. However I do not think M[r] Pigott[g] and his friends are at all likely to serve themselves by adopting such a course. Already dissatisfaction is expressed from several quarters where the Irishman had a large support. The “Supreme Council” of the secret party which is only a miserable faction now—has strictly prohibited all connection with the International[h]. In London the result is that several of their best men resigned all connection with

the “Secret party” on monday night last and have resolved to work heartily in the International. I received a most satisfactory letter from an influential man in Ennis, asking to become a member and offering to establish Sections in Ennis[,] Limerick and Tipperary. From the town of Tipperary I receive [d] another favourable letter. That the movement will be an extraordinary success in Ireland I have not the slightest doubt but great sacrifices and superhuman |(3) efforts must be made in the beginning. The London sections, owing to the disturbance created by the scoundrels of whom I told you, have lost their places of meeting. They are to have a Conference on sunday evening to make arrangements for the renting of an entire house in which all the West End sections can meet. The news from Cork is truly sad. Poor De Morgan[i] is ruined and almost penniless. Two months ago he says he could easily borrow £ 20 or £ 30—now he cannot get so many pence. His letter of sunday was very pressing—indeed so pressing that I intended placing it before the Council last night. We have only been able to send over a few pounds and a portion of that he gave to Carmody[j] who was discharged owing to the Athæneum meeting, and nearly all the rest he devoted to propaganda, advertising etc. In consequence of the rascally conduct of the Coachmakers our expense has gone, in a pecuniary point, for nothing. In answer to my 213 circulars I receive [d] 4 replies—two of them being refusals. More than half of the Collection cards which I sent to nearly all parts of England and Ireland |(4) have been returned to me, owing as the writers informed me to the paragraphs which*(?)* appeared in all the papers—that the men had returned to work etc. etc. From others I have not heard at all and in London I have been compelled to call all the cards in. The entire expense came to about £ 7··11. £ 5 of what you sent me. 10/– from Coleman[k], 10/– from a friend in Stamford Street and the remainder from myself. However the party has not been lost as it has caused a stir everywhere and set people thinking. De Morgan says that if he could hold out for a little while a reaction will take place and he may be able to re-establish himself. His presence in Cork is really indispensable. Owing to the disturbances which have been caused at the London section meetings—as Lessner[l] can tell you—I have not been able to get them to make a commencement about the “Cork fund”. At the best of times it is an unpleasant duty but some one must do it. I shall urge the matter strongly on sunday night at the Conference but even so action will scarcely be taken on that night and in the meantime circumstances |(5) may be very unpleasant in Cork. I am not a little bewildered over the matter because I feel the great responsibility that rests upon me and it is not always easy to calmly reason with persons so situated as a couple of our friends in Cork now are. I wish we could do something. I am promised some money on saturday for him but I fear it will not be much. He is now awaiting a reply from me to his letters but I scarcely know what to say. If I had been in town to[-]day I would have called upon you but I do not feel at all well.

My wife[m] joins me in kindest wishes to you and M[rs] Engels.[n]

Always yours faithfully
JP M[c]Donnell

Turn over

| I sent the Declaration[o] to all the London newspapers. Surely Daly[p] coul [d] get insertion for it in the Ev Standard[q]. I have also sent [it] to a large number of papers in Ireland.

After the postponement of Hales[r]’s proposition about the Irish Sections last night, he wrote to me as follows: “I am quite agreeable to see if the matter can be arranged between the Irish Branches and the Federal Council”—to which I need hardly say I entirely object. If he has a motion let him make it before the Genera [l] Council.

| By the way could you send me the address of The New York Secretary [y] as one of the Cork members is about to leave for The States.

Erläuterungen

a) Bezieht sich auf: Declaration of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association Concerning Cochrane's Speech in the House of Commons[c]. Die Erklärung wurde von Marx im Zusammenhang mit der Rede von Alexander Baillie-Cochrane im Unterhaus am 12. April 1872 verfasst. Marx verlas sie auf der Sitzung des Generalrats vom 16. April 1872. Sie wurde anschließend als Flugblatt und in „The Eastern Post“ (Nr. 186, 20. April 1872) veröffentlicht.

b) Cochrane, Alexander Baillie (1816-1890)

c) Zotero Link für: Declaration of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association Concerning Cochrane's Speech in the House of Commons

d) Gemeint ist der „Universal Federalist Council“, der Mitte April im „Black Swan“, Leichester Square, gegründet wurde. (Siehe The Times. London. Nr. 27351, 15. April 1872. S. 11, Sp. 6: „A Happy Family.—A large meeting of the seceding members of the International was held at the Black Swan, Leicester-square ...“ (SUB Göttingen)).

e) The Irishman

f) Ryan, (-)

g) Pigott, Richard (1828-1889)

h) Internationale Arbeiter-Assoziation (IAA) / International Workingmen's Association (IWA) / Association Internationale des Travailleurs (AIT)

i) De Morgan, John Francis (-)

j) Carmody, (-)

k) Coleman, (-)

l) Leßner, Friedrich (1825-1910)

m) McDonnell, Mary (-)

n) Burns, Lydia (1827-1878)

o) Vermutlich: Declaration by the General Council of the International Working Men’s Association. Police Terrorism in Ireland. Siehe J. P. McDonnell an Friedrich Engels, 23.4.1872 und Beilage.

p) Daly, James D.

q) The Evening Standard

r) Hales, John (1839-nach 1882)

Kritischer Apparat