

SEVENTH WITNESS TO KNOCK VISION ANALYSED

Seventh Witness.

The Testimony of Dominick Beirne.

I am brother of Mary Beirne, who has given her evidence already ; I live near the chapel of Knock ; my age is twenty years  
On the occasion when my sister came at about eight o'clock on the evening of the 21st of August into our house, she  
exclaimed : " Come, Dominick, and see the image of the Blessed Virgin, as she has appeared to us down at the chapel." I  
said, " What image?" and then she told me, as she has already described it for your reverence in her testimony: she told me  
all she was after seeing ; I then went with her, and by this time some ten or twelve people had been collected around the  
place, namely, around the ditch or wall fronting the gable, where the vision was being seen, and to the south of the  
schoolhouse; [ORIGINAL: "I SAW THE STATUE OF THE BVM, OF ST JOSEPH AND ST JOHN" - its good that he tells  
us everybody gathered to the south of the schoolhouse, that surely indicates that they assembled there for the vision seemed  
to look clearer from that spot] then I beheld the three likenesses or figures that have been already described — the Blessed  
Virgin, St. Joseph, St. John, as my sister called the bishop, who was like one preaching, with his hands raised towards the  
shoulder, and the forefinger and middle finger pointedly set; the other two fingers compressed by the thumb ; in his left he  
held a book ; he was so turned that he looked half towards the altar and half towards the people; [Mary Beirne said he was  
looking at the altar. It would be strange if he looked in the direction of the schoolhouse where they were all standing! It  
would mean he was preaching at it when there was nobody around!] the eyes of the images could be seen : they were like  
figures, inasmuch as they did not speak. I was filled with wonder at the sight I saw ; I was so affected that I shed tears ; I  
continued looking on for fully an hour, and then I went away to visit Mrs. Campbell, who was in a dying state ; when we  
returned the Vision had disappeared.

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1<sup>st</sup> July 1860 Evidence of Dominick Beirne  
I was at the house when my sister came  
to the house & saw the B.V.M.  
It was between 7 & 8 o'clock. I followed her  
there. I saw three figures as I was going  
by the by-roads. I saw three figures  
the smaller ones in front of my house  
behind the well at the school house  
I saw the statue of the B.V.M. of St  
Joseph & St John. But for my part I did not  
know when the statue and the statue represented,  
St Joseph was a little stopped to the B.V.M.  
The B.V.M. had her hands raised, she eyes turned  
towards heaven. The face appeared to be dead.  
I examined all the dresses of the 3 figures  
to be white. My own 1/2 feet above the face  
I saw a image of an altar. The lamp  
was shining at the altar and a little tower  
in the back looking towards St John.  
I stopped there for a time but 1 1/2 hours or there  
about to near 10 o'clock - I went away to see a dying  
woman; when we came back the Apparition  
was gone. Figures all white. The B.V.M. appeared  
as praying, - I saw her eyes turned up. The colour  
on the B.V.M. was white too. St John wore a white  
mitre. The altar white. - The brightness of the  
light (if reported) reach up to the luncheon in the  
middle of the gable (say 15 feet)  
It was rainy all the time  
I told my sister to call to the people,

Capobell } Father J. did not come. All great men went  
to the shrine. I was by 5 min away, when I returned  
the place was empty!

... I saw the image of the B.M. of St  
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WHY IS THE PRIEST'S HANDWRITING SO HURRIED? THE TALE IS TOO STRUCTURED AND PRACTICED. DOMINICK JUST LEARNED IT OFF AND RECITED IT FOR THE PRIEST TO WRITE IT DOWN.

Dominick never had to sign this testimony. Is it valid then?

In the original handwritten copy he says, "I saw the image of an altar". That was left out of the books. Why? An image of an altar cannot mean a statue of an altar. It would be strange to describe an altar as a statue. What he meant was he saw a picture of the altar. It had to be left out for the Church wished to portray the vision as being more than a picture! A picture would mean it was probably a trick or hoax.

