

## **Moments in Our History**

### **(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 – 1975)**

#### John Jones and Bishop O'Donel (Part 4)

The court dismissed the charge against Jones and three offenders in the riot were convicted and sentenced to corporal punishment. "At the intercession of Mr. Jones, they were forgiven."

Support for John Jones came from Father James O'Donel, who publicly condemned the riot and declared his belief in Jones' innocence.

On 27 April 1785, Jones wrote to Father O'Donel to thank him for his generous support. He was pleased that O'Donel, like the magistrates did not credit the reports against him. He had endured "more furious insults" in his day and "cordially forgave the Authors."  
He concluded his letter:

"It is true you and I differ on theological points but I hope we are jointly influenced by the same pious and benevolent motives so strongly recommended in the precepts and examples of our common LORD. I am happy under our gracious and wise administration to enjoy a free liberty of conscience and rejoice to see my fellow subjects of every denomination enjoying the like blessing with myself. To endeavour to do unto all men as they should do unto me, is my duty, and what I have hitherto strove to prove, and what by GOD'S grace I intend to pursue. I am, Revd. Sir, with cordial regard, Yours etc. John Jones."