THE REALITY
AFTER ‘INCREASING PRESSURE’ BY ANTIQUARIAN DIGNITARIES, AND REPEATED ‘LOUD CALLS’ FROM THE PUBLIC OVER 1850-1900

1. THE 8th DUKE OF ARGYLL WAS PRESSURED AND FORCED TO HALT FURTHER ABBEY DECAY. HE REACTED ON JUST TWO OCCASIONS OVER 50 YEARS.

2. RESPONDED TO PRESSURE TO ALLOW UNEQUAL ACCESS TO “REFEREED”, SEGREGATED DENOMINATIONAL SERVICES ON IONA. IT WAS NOT ECUMENISM – BUT APPEASMENT. IMPOSED, REFEREED, UNEQUAL ACCESS TO A LOCATION, WHICH WAS ALSO SEGREGATED, IS NOT EMBRYONIC ECUMENISM OR ANYTHING RESEMBLING A NASCENT, 40 YEAR LATER, IONA COMMUNITY. “UNIFICATION” IT WAS NOT.

3. RETURNED THE PROPERTY WITHOUT RESTITUTION 1899…AND “ENTRUSTED” THE RESTORATION.

4. IT WAS RESTORED WITH PUBLIC FUNDS AND COMMUNITY LABOUR: BY THE CATHEDRAL TRUST & THE IONA COMMUNITY.

THE 8TH DUKE DID NOT SUPPORT ECUMENISM. OR HAVE ANY VISION TO INITIATE IT ON IONA. HE CALLED IT ‘RECRUDENCE OF THE ROMANISING TENDENANCY’.

IT STARTED 40 YEARS AFTER HE DIED – FROM STOPPING ATTEMPTS OF THAT SAME YEAR 1938 TO TURN IONA INTO A CATHOLIC SEMINARY BY THE MARQUESS OF BUTE: "There was alarm that Iona might be turned into a Catholic seminary"!