

Intercolonial

A tribute was paid to the memory of the late Mr. Nicholas Fitzgerald at a recent sitting of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, when a resolution was agreed to, on the motion of the Premier (Sir Thomas Bent), seconded by the leader of the Opposition, putting on record the sense of the great loss which the House had sustained by Mr. Fitzgerald's death, after a service of 44 years.

The Hon. John Gavan Duffy, in his address at the reception to Ensign Emmet in the Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, said: 'I am especially gratified to be here to-night to do honor to our distinguished guest, for two reasons personal to myself. Firstly, because, curiously enough, I am the only Australian who ever represented Australia in a public capacity in America. In the days before Federation, at the Postal Congress held at Washington, I represented all the Australian States, and New Zealand and Fiji as well. Both private and public hospitality was lavished upon me, and I was enabled to see a large part of the great Republic under most fortunate auspices. I am glad to-night, in showing hospitality to an American, to do some little thing to show my appreciation of American hospitality. Secondly, it is not unfitting that a son of Charles Gavan Duffy should greet a kinsman of Robert Emmet, that there should be some bond between the men of '48 and the men of 1803.'

His Eminence Cardinal Moran (says the *Freeman's Journal*) celebrated the anniversary of his birth on Wednesday, September 16, when he entered on his 79th year. The Cardinal was born at Leighlinbridge, County of Carlow, Ireland, on September 16, 1830. He was ordained priest in Rome on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1853, and was installed as Bishop of Ossory, August 18, 1872. He was appointed to the Archiepiscopal See of Sydney, March 21, 1884, and was created Cardinal-Archbishop on July 27, 1885. Under the earnest administration of his Eminence, the Church in our midst has grown to robust proportions, and is the wonder of the onlooker, and the envy of other denominations, while it commands the admiration of older Catholic countries. The progress and development of Catholic education under the ægis of his Eminence has been wonderful, while his strong personality has been the means of crowning with success that system of education by which the children of Catholic parents have been imbued with a strong love of faith, as well as that training so requisite to make good citizens.

Cardinal Moran, replying to the remarks of the Lord Mayor of Sydney at the luncheon in connection with the birthday of his Eminence, said it would not be his fault if he did not carry out the commands of his medical adviser, then present, and who had instructed him that he (the Cardinal) was not to give trouble to anyone by dying before he reached the century. He had always tried to follow in the paths that duty and conscience dictated, regardless of consequences. They had some stirring times in the Home Country at the present time, judging from the cables to hand. It only reminded them of the wail of some in their own midst who would go a doubtful way about uplifting public life in the Legislatures by selecting only Protestant candidates, to the exclusion of the most upright and patriotic of the Catholic citizens. So far as the mere name of Catholic was concerned, his advice would be that if anyone approached the polls on the mere pretext of his being a Catholic, then he would advise all his fellow-Catholics to make it a point to oppose that man, and to vote only for a man of true patriotic heart, of honor, and of rectitude.

The will of the late Mr. Michael Lennon, of Colonna, farmer, has been lodged for probate (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*). The deceased gentleman died on August 11, leaving personal property of the value of £4823, and by his will, which is dated December 11, 1903, the property is left to various charities, almost exclusively Catholic. Testator bequeaths £100 to the Catholic clergy of the diocese of Sandhurst, and £20 to the parish priest of Kerang. The residue of the estate is to be divided equally between the Sisters of Nazareth, the Foundling Hospital at Broadmeadows; St. Joseph's Receiving Home, Carlton; The Orphanage, Bendigo; the Home for Destitute Children, at Surrey Hills; the Magdalen Asylum, Abbotsford; St. James's Asylum, Oakleigh; The Orphanage, Rosary place, South Melbourne; Little Sisters of the Poor, Sandhurst Hospital, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Bendigo; Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Melbourne; Girls' Orphanage, Geelong; and the fund for infirm priests, Bendigo.

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

Skyscrapers.

The New York Building Department has approved the plans for the highest building in the world. It is proposed to be erected for the Equitable Life Assurance Society on the Broadway, to have 62 storeys, and to be 1000 feet from the pavement to the roof, and to cost £2,000,000. To guard against fire the staircases are to be enclosed in fireproof partitions with iron doors.

Submarine Navigation.

The idea of the submarine is certainly as much as 200 years old, but most of the earlier plans were flat failures. In 1774 an inventor named Day lost his life during an experimental descent in Plymouth Sound. Bushnell, of Connecticut, in 1775, contrived a submarine vessel propelled by some kind of screw. Robert Fulton also in 1796 invented a box which when filled with combustibles might be propelled under water and made to explode under the bottom of a ship. It is hard to say who was the originator of the idea of the submarine boat unless it was Day.

Why Frogs are Cold.

Many boys have probably wondered why frogs are cold to the touch, and some of them look upon these little creatures with a sort of horror, believing that they have no blood. But such is not the case, for they have not only blood, but they possess nerves and can feel. Perhaps if this was more generally known there would not be so many heartless boys, who seem to take special delight in torturing frogs and toads. According to scientists, frogs are cold-blooded because they consume but little air. It is the same with fishes. Without a plentiful supply of air there is not much animal heat because of slow combustion.

Told from the Pulse.

'The pulse always beats faster in the case of women than it does in men,' said a physician, 'and from birth to death the pulse speed steadily decreases. I have no doubt that, by the pulse alone, I could tell readily the age and sex of the average healthy person. Babies at birth have a pulse that beats 160 times a minute in the case of girls and 150 times a minute in the case of boys. At the age of four or five the pulse bears will have fallen respectively to 110 and 100. Maidens' and youths' pulses average 95 and 90. Mature women's and men's average 80 and 75. Elderly women's and men's average 60 and 50. In the case of an old woman the pulse rarely, if ever, sinks below 50, but among old men a pulse under 50 is fairly common.'

Weight of the Body.

There are several fallacies which are common with regard to the weight of the human body. The man who congratulates himself on his gain of several pounds in weight over a given period may have no cause for rejoicing, for he may be under a delusion. Very few persons have a correct idea of their weight. As a matter of fact, the weight of the body is continually changing owing to innumerable influences. On a warm day after breakfast a man will lose more than a third of a pound per hour. Seventy per cent. of the body consists of water, and its weight varies constantly. The inference to be drawn from the loss or gain of a pound or two may be mistrusted. Fluctuations of a few ounces are a sign that the body is in a healthy state.

The Panama Canal.

More than half the excavation necessary to complete the famous Culebra Cut, where most of the digging at Panama has to be done, has been finished, as shown in the graphical statement of yardage recently prepared by the Isthmian Canal Commission, and all the other work required to enable ships to pass through the interoceanic waterway has made proportionate progress since Americans relieved the French of the great project. Scarcely less interesting, and giving a most informing picture of the remarkable development of canal plans to meet modern steamship practice, is the typical cross section of the deep cut, which contrasts the little ditch the French were digging with the splendid canal which the Americans are making practicable for speedy navigation by the largest vessels likely to be designed in many years.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Strickland) and Lady Strickland, who had been on a six months' visit to England, have returned to Tasmania.

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