

mon. Father Mulry says that names like McCloud, McCarty, McCleary, Duncan, Walsh, Fagan, Moore, Brian, Kelly, and Gillespie show what happens to the sons of Erin when transplanted in a tropic soil. 'This morning after Mass,' he writes, 'I was particularly struck by the jovial appearance of a stout mulatto who had been carried up the hill by the stoutest of mules and who had made himself the centre of a laughing group of his fellows. His name, I found on inquiry, was Sullivan. And it was Mrs. Murray who brought to her pastor, as her gift, the most delicious of pineapples, called a cheese pine.'

### Help for the Sufferers by the Earthquake

Ireland (writes a Dublin correspondent) is determined to do her part in connection with the world-wide effort which is being made to assist those rendered destitute by the recent earthquake. His Eminence Cardinal Logue has made an earnest appeal for them in the North. His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin has addressed a letter to the clergy, secular and regular, of his diocese, directing that a collection be made for the same purpose. Dr. Walsh says it would be unworthy of the traditional generosity of the Irish people if they failed to claim for themselves a place amongst the hundreds of thousands of those who, rich or poor as they themselves may be, are now hastening forward the world over, to give practical expression to their sympathy with the sorrow-stricken victims of the disastrous earthquake. Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick; Most Rev. Dr. Gaughran, Bishop of Meath; and Most Rev. Dr. McHugh, Bishop of Derry, have also directed that collections be made in their dioceses for the relief of the victims who have survived. Many lay efforts, too, are being made with the same object in view, and are meeting with success, as instanced by the great attendance at the Antient Concert Rooms.

### The Irish Press Agency

We (*Catholic Times*) cannot have too much of the enlightenment which the Irish Press Agency is diffusing amongst the British people. Mr. Stephen Gwynn, M.P., in a letter to Mr. John Redmond, recounts some of the undertakings it has successfully carried through since it was established a little over a year ago. The agency has assisted in the production of valuable works on the condition of Ireland, and has issued a number of useful leaflets dealing with charges against the Irish people. Through Irish and English Agencies over 100,000 copies of these leaflets have been distributed, and in exposing misrepresentation a good deal of correspondence has been carried on in the press. So far the amount of money expended has been comparatively small. As the work increases, the need of additional expense will arise, and we trust it will be generously met. Prejudice against the Irish on account of their creed and nationality is still very strong in some places, and is kept alive by bigoted religious and political organisations, which must be continually combated if truth and justice are to prevail. The office of the Irish Press Agency ought to be made such a repository of facts and figures with regard to Irish affairs, whether historical or contemporary, that it may be possible for anyone on application to it to secure at once reliable information which can be employed effectively to refute slanders and libels upon the Irish character.

There are two kinds of pianos—one to play on, and the other to look at. Some pianos look well as articles of furniture in a drawing-room, but are failures as producers of good music. Those who require a piano for music should patronise a reputable firm, such as Messrs. Chas. Begg and Co., Dunedin, where they will be sure of getting an instrument that cannot fail to please in every particular....

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## People We Hear About

The Emperor Francis Joseph has bestowed upon Queen Helena of Italy the Grand Cross of the Order of Elizabeth, in recognition of her Majesty's self-sacrificing devotion to the victims of the earthquake in Southern Italy. The decoration is accompanied by an autograph letter from the Emperor.

Mr. Arthur à Beckett, who passed away in London on January 14, was a well-known journalist and author, and had been on the staff of *Punch* for a period of 28 years, part of which time he acted as sub-editor, Sir F. Burnand, a fellow-convert to the Catholic Church, being at the same time editor. Prior to his connection with *Punch* the late Mr. à Beckett edited daily papers in London, and during the Franco-German war acted as war correspondent to the *Standard*. He wrote several novels, dramas, comedies, and other works. After his reception into the Church he was for four years private secretary to the Duke of Norfolk.

Quite a number of notable anniversaries were 'celebrated' on January 15 (remarks the *Irish Weekly*). Hans Sloane was born at Killyleagh, County Down, in 1660. During an enterprising and successful career as a physician and naturalist, he accumulated a vast library of 50,000 books and 3566 valuable MSS., which were purchased from his executors by the British Parliament, and formed into the nucleus of the British Museum which was founded on January 15, 1759—just 150 years ago. Sir Hans had left earthly riches and cares behind him just seven years previously. The National Portrait Gallery was founded on January 14, 1859; and on the same date half a century previously (1809) Sir John Moore fought and lost the Battle of Corunna. Moore was, like Abercromby, a brave and humane commander, and he had strongly protested against barbarities of the yeomen and militia who provoked the Irish Insurrection of 1798. His memory would have fared like those of many other British commanders of greater achievement were it not for the Rev. Charles Wolfe's immortal ballad commencing—'Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note.'

Henry Matthews, Lord Llandaff, is just eighty-three years of age. This (says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*) recalls the remarkable fact that he is one of four distinguished lawyers who were called to the Bar in 1850 and 1851 and still take an active part in life. The other three are Lord Halsbury, Lord James, and Sir Harry Poland. Henry Matthews joined the Oxford Circuit with Henry James, now Lord James, and they were professional rivals on circuit and in London until 1886, when Matthews left the legal for the political arena to become Home Secretary in Lord Salisbury's Ministry. It was through his friend Lord Randolph Churchill that he got his appointment, and there were few better qualified for the post. When Lord Salisbury formed his next Ministry in 1895, he was offered a viscountcy, which he accepted. In the House of Lords he has taken no part in debate, except on one or two occasions when Catholic interests have been in question. He spoke on the question of the Coronation Oath last session, and in the House, sitting on the same benches, were the two other great lawyers with whom his life has been passed in professional conflict. He and Lord Halsbury are two survivors of the Tichborne case—almost the only ones. Lord Halsbury was counsel for the claimant with Sergeant Ballantine. Lord Llandaff represented the Tichborne family, but he had no *locus standi* in the court, and although he sat in it for the year the trial lasted he never opened his mouth.

Mr. Arthur MacMurrough Kavanagh, father of Mr. Walter MacMurrough Kavanagh, the present Nationalist M.P. for Carlow, sat for the same county in the seventies as a Conservative, and was an extremely able man. He had neither arms nor legs, and had to be carried in and out of the House. Strangest of all, he used to ride to hounds, and achieved the distinction of riding from Russia over the Caucasian Mountains to the Persian Gulf. He was also noted as a yachtsman. He entered and left the House of Commons on the back of his valet; he spoke while sitting; and his vote was recorded without his passage through the lobby. He was a clever speaker and writer. When writing he held the handle of his pen in his mouth, and guided it with his artificial arm. The Kavanaghs are lineal descendants of MacMurrough, the King of Leinster, who brought the Normans over in the reign of Henry II.

Father Schell, the eminent Dominican Assyriologist, has just been elected a member of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, in Paris, receiving thirty out of the thirty-three votes cast. Out of seven volumes published by the French Legation in Persia on Assyriology, five were from the pen of Father Schell. This is but another instance of the work of priests in forwarding the progress of science.

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