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The Irish in Rome

There appears in a recent issue of the 'Irish Ecclesiastical Record' an interesting article from the pen of a scholarly Irishman and priest, the Rev. D. T. McCrea, M.R.I.A., who discusses learnedly, and with the unique advantage that comes of long residence and intimate acquaintanceship, the many hallowed associations and hoary institutions connecting Irish life and history with the Eternal City. The article is, indeed, a valuable contribution to a subject that has been frequently dealt with in a discursive way. If, says the writer, 'the Irish are to be found so universally in the world, whether by tendency or necessity, we are not to be surprised to find them in Rome, to which they are bound by a thousand ties. It has been calculated that Ireland is represented in no fewer than

Fifty Ecclesiastical Institutions

of the city, and not only in the Church, but the medical, literary, and social departments are fully and adequately represented; and so I might go on grade by grade, to find an Irish cabman in the streets of Rome.' After dealing at some length with the Irish College and its foundation, there is an interesting reference to the Irish Franciscans and the Rev. Luke Wadding, the friend of the Confederated Catholics, together with a notice of Father Hugh MacCaghwell, Father Colgan, and others. Father Wadding was born at Waterford, 1588, and died in 1658. He was the author of many learned and interesting works. His bones have been transferred from the church and placed in a little oratory by themselves, in a carved wooden sarcophagus, and are regarded with reverence by the community. Father MacCaghwell was born at Saul, County Down, in 1572. He belonged to the Scottish School of Theology. He wrote several theological works, and was appointed to the See of Armagh by Urban VIII on the feast of St. Patrick, March, 1626. He was consecrated in Rome, 7th June of the same year, but died of fever shortly afterwards, and never reached Ireland. The name of Father John Colgan must not be omitted, who was also associated with St. Isidore's. Father Colgan was born at Carnagone, in Inishowen, County Donegal, in 1592. He was the author of several works, including the 'Acta SS Hib.' published in Louvain, in 1654, and the 'Trias Thaumaturga,' in 1647. His death occurred at Louvain in 1658. The present guardian of St. Isidore's is Father Patrick Cahill, and the Vicar the Rev. Francis Walsh. The church contains relics of great national and historical importance, which the good Fathers are always pleased to exhibit to their visitors. Amongst these are

The Sword of Hugh O'Neill

and a beautiful original portrait of his son, the Baron of Dungannon, who died on the 24th September, 1609, while yet in his 24th year. Hugh himself sleeps in the company of the Tyrconnel Princes in the Church of San Pietro in Montorio. Father McCrea says: 'The church, which is now in the hands of the Spanish Franciscans, is on the Vatican side of the Tiber, near the gigantic monument of Garibaldi, and overlooking the entire city. The tombs are side by side, half way up the nave of the church, and except the arms of the O'Neills and O'Donnells, with the lengthened inscriptions in Latin, there is

nothing to arrest the attention of the Irish visitor. They are placed horizontally, and form portion of the pavement, so that they are easily overlooked.'

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