

take him to the Southern Hemisphere, but he was confident his mother would not allow him to go. The boy replied that he was certain his mother would not object. Next morning the boy was early at the Gresham Hotel, washed and scrubbed as, possibly, he had never been before, but still barefooted. He inquired for Mr. O'Loughlin, and, finding him, said his mother was prepared to allow him to go to Australia. Mr. O'Loughlin was still doubtful as to the accuracy of the lad's statement, and said, 'But your mother does not know who I am.' 'Oh, indeed she does,' the youth promptly replied. 'She saw your photograph in the *Freeman* this morning, and she says you must be a very good man.' Mr. O'Loughlin may have been flattered by the lady's good opinion, and said if she came to the hotel he would be pleased to see her. The mother and boy turned up at the Gresham in the evening, and as a result of an interview with them Mr. O'Loughlin arranged to pay the expenses of the young fellow to Australia, and give him a start in life under the Southern Cross.

A PATRIOTIC MEDICAL MAN.

This country (says the *Irish Weekly*) had no truer, more unselfish, or more devoted son and champion than Dr. Patrick J. Timmins, the patriotic native of Newtownbutler, whose death at Boston we announce with heartfelt regret. Dr. Timmins left Ireland so long ago as 1871, when he was 24 years old. He settled in Boston—the city which contains more Irishmen than Belfast or Dublin; and when he adopted the medical profession he became a leader amongst his colleagues, and one of the most successful and prosperous practitioners in the United States. Few men were so popular in 'New England's' capital; very few men indeed did more in the United States to make the name of Ireland honored, and to win hosts of sympathisers for the national cause. He was a leader of every movement for the regeneration of his native country; and his frequent visits to Ireland—especially to the North, where his good name and high reputation were causes of justifiable pride to his old friends and neighbors in County Fermanagh—were frequent. Nearly six years ago he travelled throughout Ireland in the company of Mr. T. B. Fitzpatrick, treasurer of the United Irish League, and Mr. John O'Callaghan, the brilliant secretary of that organisation. Dr. Timmins' death occurred on the eve of the fruition of his dearest hopes; but his memory will be honored for long years in the country he loved so well and served so faithfully.

DONERAILE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

Among those who received birthday congratulations on St. Patrick's Day was Canon Patrick Sheehan, born sixty-one years ago. Doneraile, where he has lived the retired life of a country parish priest since 1895 and written all his books, has a very interesting literary association. Near at hand are the ruins of Kilcolman Castle, where Spenser wrote his poetry and showed the draft of the *Faerie Queen* to Raleigh. It is Spenser, by the way, who puts on record the testimony of a Protestant of the Elizabethan garrison to the superiority of the 'Popish priests' over the 'ministers of the Gospel' as he observed them in the Ireland of his day. The passage (of which the spelling is here modernised) is found in the poet's Irish correspondence:—'It is a great wonder to see the odds which is between the zeal of Popish priests and the ministers of the Gospel, for they spare not to come out of Spain, from Rome, and from Rheims, by long toil and dungeons travelling hither, and here they know peril of death awaiteth them, and no reward or riches is to be found, only to draw the people unto the Church of Rome; whereas some of our idle ministers, having a way for credit and estimation thereby opened to them, without pains and without peril, will neither for the same nor for any love of God, nor for any good they may do, be drawn forth from their warm nests, to look out into God's harvest.'

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People We Hear About

Mr. Theobald Mathew, son of the late Lord Justice Mathew, and the brother-in-law of Mr. John Dillon, has been appointed Recorder of Margate. Born in 1866, educated at the Oratory, and afterwards at Oxford, Mr. Mathew was called to the Bar in 1890, and has had a distinguished legal career.

The Duke of Norfolk holds two Papal Orders which are possessed by no other subject of the British Crown. One of these is the noble Order of Christ, which was founded in 1318, after the dissolution of the Order of the Temple, by the then King of Portugal. The other is the Order of the Golden Spur, restored by the present Pope in 1905.

Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J. (says *London Opinion*), was once asked by a fashionably dressed lady, 'Would you really describe the world as a vale of tears?' Father Vaughan thought for a moment before replying: 'No, I do not think I should. I should be inclined to describe it as a home for incurables.' Then, as she looked puzzled, he continued: 'So very few have ever been known to leave it alive.'

Mr. Asquith, who completed five years as Prime Minister on April 8, has every prospect of achieving the distinction of presiding over an administration for a longer period than any other Liberal statesman during the last half-century. He has already been in power longer than any Liberal Prime Minister since the Redistribution, and before members adjourn for their summer recess he will have occupied the position for a term exceeding either of Mr. Gladstone's first two administrations—five years and two months from 1868 to 1874, and a few days less than that period from 1880 to 1885, the only ones during the half-century to the credit of a Liberal Prime Minister that Mr. Asquith has not yet eclipsed.

By the death of Sir Tatton Sykes, the famous North-country Baronet (says the *Universe*), another Catholic is added to the roll of Catholic titled people in England. The late Baronet is succeeded by his son, Colonel Mark Sykes, who is the Member of Parliament for Central Hull. The new Baronet was born in 1879, and married a daughter of Sir John Gorst. He is a man of exceptional ability and of experience in many directions. After serving in the South African War he was private secretary to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, in 1904-5. His attempts to secure Parliamentary honors were at first unsuccessful, but on the death of the late Lord Nunburnholme, the succession of the sitting member for Central Hull to the Peerage allowed Colonel Sykes to contest the seat, which he did with success. The new Baronet is a member of the Territorial Association of the North and East Ridings, a Justice of the Peace, and a County Councillor for the East Riding.

At the present time several civil servants in New Zealand, who are close on their sixty-fifth year, have been notified that they will be retired on reaching the age-limit. In the United Kingdom a public official or politician is supposed to be at his best at sixty-five. Lord Alverstone says that the judges are at their best from sixty-five to eighty. Sir George Birdwood, eighty-one this year, says he cannot understand why people imagine that this is the day of young men. 'Now, more than ever, it is the day of the old man with vitality. Lord Alverstone is perfectly right when he says that a judge is at his best from the age of sixty-five to eighty.' He contends that 'an able man's brain goes on developing right up to ninety and over—only his body decays.' Provided he is quite fit, 'the older a man is the better he is intellectually—the broader his vision, the saner and wiser his outlook, and the more mature his opinions.' The following are a few of the old men of vitality to-day:—Lord Wemyss, 94; Lord Strathcona, 92; Lord Halsbury, 87; Lord Roberts, 80; Lord Morley, 74; Mr. Thomas Hardy, 72; Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, 90; Sir Hiram Maxim, 73.

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