

ability displayed by them in the formation and management of this splendid Catholic enterprise, Mr. Sexton and Mr. McCormick and the other directors deserve the utmost credit.

### St. Patrick's Day in London

The St. Patrick's Day banquet in the Hotel Cecil proved fully equal to any of its predecessors. This remarkable function has now become an institution in Irish politics, and from small beginnings has grown to be the greatest gathering of its kind in any part of the world. The grand hall of the Hotel Cecil is the largest dining-room in Europe, but it was not large enough for the mammoth gathering, in which nearly 600 guests took part. The letters from the Most Rev Dr. O'Donnell and from the new Archbishop of Westminster were read amidst loud cheering. The speeches were of a very eloquent character, and the musical programme left nothing to be desired.

### The National Festival

St. Patrick's Day (says the 'Irish Weekly') was fittingly and decorously observed in every corner of the land. The formal recognition of it as a national holiday was, owing to legislative enactment, more marked than usual in some localities, and in commercial circles outside of Belfast, though even here there was not altogether wanting an air of geniality, despite the unpleasant and depressing weather. Happily it required no enactment of the legislature to ensure the observance of the day over the greater part of Ireland, where it has ever been voluntarily kept and honored as a holiday consecrated to religion and Nationality. In Dublin the feast was observed as a general holiday, and practically all business was suspended, shops, large and small, being closed, as well as the law courts and the various Government offices. Most of the licensed houses, too, fell into line and kept closed doors. The outdoor demonstrations which were held here and there in the North passed off without any jarring incidents or unseemly display. The spirit of tolerance and good humor prevailed, and everywhere, according to report, the day was observed temperately and with decorum. In England and in lands far away the day was worthily commemorated. In Rome the Irish College was, as always, the centre of national patriotism and fervor, and the memory of the Apostle of the race was honored by befitting religious and social ceremonies. In every quarter where Irishmen are found there appears to have been a hearty co-operation in suitably honoring and observing the day. Here at Home, both in town and country, it has been kept in a spirit of sobriety and of self-respect, which, it is to be hoped, will come to be regarded as permanent characteristics of the great festival.

Regarding the personal appearance of the new Bishop of Southwark, London, 'M A P' says—A non-smoker and a total abstainer, Bishop Amigo has something about him of the sternness of the reformer and the rigidity of the Puritan. Tall, swarthy, somewhat stooping, and altogether unmlitary in gait, with hair which is already sable-silvered, straight features, black eyes, long face, and tight-set mouth, he gives an impression of severity, which, however, easily melts into smiling sympathy and unbends to the mildest of acts. Young in years, the older priests, whose wisdom and experience he respects, know that they will find in him their friend, while in energy, resource, and self-sacrifice he can measure paces with the swiftest of the young. Finally, his friends hope that one crowning thing at least his new honors will bring him—and that is a new hat.

**MAKE NO MISTAKE!**—You may fancy a cough is a trivial affair, but unless you take precautions you will find it rapidly develop into something very serious. Take warning, therefore, and at the first symptom of trouble try **TUSSICURA**, which everyone who has once taken it acknowledges to be the only certain remedy for complaints of the Throat and Lungs. There will be no difficulty in obtaining it, as all Chemists and Storekeepers keep **TUSSICURA**, and you should insist on having that and nothing else.—\*\*\*

**PHYSICIANS AGREE** that every disease with which suffering humanity is afflicted is certainly due to the neglect of some trivial trouble, which could have been easily cured if a remedy had been applied in time. Most complaints make their early appearance in the shape of Affections of the Throat and Lungs, and what is required in the initial stage is a preparation that will arrest the development of serious trouble. **TUSSICURA** has proved its efficacy in this respect in thousands of cases throughout the length and breadth of the Colony, and for this reason its reputation is widespread and daily increasing. Price, 2s 6d per bottle. Obtainable from all Chemists and Storekeepers.—\*\*\*

## People We Hear About

Pio Centra, the devoted attendant of Leo XIII., has returned to his native place, loaded with honors and rewards.

When the last mail left Home Mr. Michael Davitt was indisposed at Oakland, California, being threatened with pneumonia. He was not well enough to take part in the local St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Mr. Peter Paul Pugin, the well known Gothic architect, died recently at Boune-mouth, England. The father, grandfather, and great-grandfather of the deceased were also distinguished architects. The Pugins are of French extraction.

The death is announced of Mr. William Russell Grace, ex-Mayor of New York. Mr. Grace, who was born in Ireland in 1832, was founder of the firm of W. R. Grace and Co., one of the largest in the South and Central American trade, and also of the New York and Pacific Steamship Co. He was Mayor of New York in 1881 and in 1885. In 1897 he founded the Grace Institute, an establishment for affording practical training to women. He was brother of the late Hon. Dr. Grace, of Wellington.

It is related that when he first visited Ireland, Thackeray took a drive on a Dublin car some distance into the country. Milestones had recently been erected along the roads, and on each was printed the number of miles, with the letters 'G.P.O.', distances being measured from the General Post Office. Thackeray was unaware of this, and in his first thirst for information asked the carman what the letters meant. The prompt reply was: 'God preserve O'Connell.' Thackeray believed what he was told, but the incident only appeared in the first edition of his book.

Sir Robert Hart, the famous Director of Chinese Customs, is an Irishman. He has just celebrated his sixty-ninth birthday. Sir Robert's position at Peking is unique in its way. Nominally only an official of the Chinese Government, he is in reality vastly more than this. He has for a long time been the only European thoroughly trusted by the Chinese rulers, and from many a false step and difficult position his counsel and resource have saved them. He might have been British Ambassador long since had he chosen. But he preferred his existing post. Sir Robert, though wielding such power, is naturally of a singularly modest and retiring nature. Among the European residents in Peking he is immensely popular.

His Lordship Dr. Oher, who was consecrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, a few Sundays ago, is an enthusiastic musician. In Tonga he formed a brass band, composed entirely of natives, and with them experienced a some what thrilling adventure. On one occasion Dr. Oher, with many chiefs and the brass band, were going on a visit when a storm overtook their schooner, which was tossed hither and thither on the waves for several weeks. Provisions and water ran out, and the frail craft was all but sinking. But the brave missionary and his sturdy seamen did not lose heart, and eventually they were driven ashore on a strange island, which, however, proved to be Fiji. Sir John Thurston and Father Oher being old friends, he and his crew were well cared for and hospitably received, and Sir John had the schooner repaired, fitted, and provisioned at the expense of the Government. Whilst the schooner was being overhauled the Governor extended a cordial invitation to Father Oher's Tongan Brass Band to give entertainments, and the music they discoursed was a source of great delight to the Fijians, who much appreciated it.

The members of the new Commonwealth Ministry have been drawn from various callings. Mr. Watson (Premier) was born in Valparaiso, but spent his early years in New Zealand, where he learned the printing trade. Mr. Higgins (Attorney-General) was born in Ireland, but went to Victoria when very young, and is a graduate of Melbourne University. Mr. Hughes (External Affairs) is a native of Sydney, worked as a youth at umbrella-making, and later on became a school teacher. Mr. Batchelor (Home Affairs) was born in Adelaide, and after spending a few years as pupil teacher, learned the trade of engine fitter. Mr. Hugh Mahon (Postmaster-General) is a native of King's County, Ireland. He was educated in Canada, and is a journalist by profession. Mr. Andrew Fisher (Customs) was born in Scotland, and is a miner by occupation. Mr. Dawson (Defence) hails from Queensland, and is an engineer by trade. Mr. Gregor McGregor (Honorary Minister) is a Scotchman by birth, and was a brick-layer's laborer before he entered Parliament.