

People We Hear About.

Dr. J. J. Grace, F.R.C.S., son of the Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C., Wellington, has been appointed (says the *New Zealand Times*) plague expert to the Government of Hawaii.

Dr. Pastor, author of the *History of the Popes*, has received from Leo XIII a letter praising his work and creating him a Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester.

The late Mr Justice O'Brien, of Dublin, died worth £35,000, which he leaves to sisters, nephews, and nieces. He leaves his general library to the Jesuits at Milltown Park, near Dublin, his law books to be sold.

The astonishing sale of the Rev. Father Sheehan's sketch of parochial life in Ireland, which was published at Boston in December last under the title of *My New Curate*, may be gauged from the fact that two editions were exhausted in America before a single copy could be spared for the English market. Father Sheehan is parish priest of Doneraile, County Cork.

Lord Roberts was always very proud of his son's riding powers. At an Irish meeting last year, young Roberts rode clean away from the field and won with a dozen lengths to spare. 'My son must not be encouraged to ride; a soldier has to keep all his abilities for the Service,' said Lord Roberts: then, with a burst of paternal pride, 'but, in all my life, I never saw anyone ride a better race.'

Lord Camoys, who celebrated his birthday recently, is one of the old aristocracy, going back to the first baron of that name who commanded the left wing at Agincourt in 1415, and was made a Knight of the Garter. The Barony was, however, in abeyance for rather more than four centuries, from 1426 until 1839. He is one of the most popular members of the Catholic nobility.

Michael Mooney who lives at the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, New York, is by far the healthiest and strongest of America's centenarians. He was born on Easter morning, 1792, in the town of Granwith, County of Longford, Ireland. 'My family were active participants in the rebellion of 1798,' he says, 'and my father and two brothers fought gallantly all through the uprising, under Lord Edward Fitzgerald.'

The numerous friends of Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P. (says the *Catholic Herald*, February 16), will be gratified at the intelligence that, although unable as yet to leave his home at Westgate, he is slowly regaining his strength. While his indifferent eyesight is somewhat of a disability, Mr. McCarthy is now able not only to read the papers, but is strong enough to make some progress daily towards the completion of his *History of the Four Georges*.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., who has been unanimously elected sessional chairman of the reunited Irish Nationalist Party (says the *Daily News*) is only forty-four years of age. He had the good fortune to enter Parliament when he was twenty-five, so that he may almost be said to have passed his life in the House of Commons. As a Parliamentary speaker he stands in the very highest rank. There are few men in the House who come near him in point of dignified eloquence, and no man understands better the way in which that peculiar assembly should be addressed.

The last three Chief Justices of Victoria—Sir W. Foster Stawell, Mr. George Higinbotham, and Sir John Madden—all claimed Irish parentage.

The late Vicar-General of his Holiness Leo, XIII.—Cardinal Domenico Jacobini—whilst one of the most popular members of the Sacred College, owed his exalted position to himself and to his talents alone, for he was born of poor and humble parents, his father being a janitor. Succeeding, not without difficulty, in entering the Roman Seminary, the young man made marvellous progress, and as soon as he was ordained priest was offered and accepted the chair of Greek in the same seminary where he had been a pupil.

When Pope Leo XIII. was born, his father, Count Ludovico Pecci, presented him to numbers of the Carpineto peasants who were assembled, according to custom, in one of the saloons of the Pecci palace. They welcomed the child with loud cries, and shepherds with flutes and pipes announced the news of his birth far and wide. The rector of the Jesuit College at Viterbo, where the future Pope and his brother were educated, wrote to their mother: 'So excellent are the two boys you have intrusted to me that I anticipate a great future for them.'

Mr. T. P. Gill, a former Irish Nationalist member of the House of Commons, has been appointed secretary of the new Board of Agriculture and Industries in Ireland. Mr. Gill, who went out of politics in 1892, was associated with Mr. Horace Plunkett in the work of the famous 'Recess Committee,' which was formed to gather and formulate information as to the economic resources of Ireland and the manner in which they could be utilised. Colonel Sanderson, on behalf of the Irish Unionist members, has, it is stated, written to the Prime Minister urging the undesirability of the appointment of Mr. Gill.

Viscount Gormanston, the Governor of Tasmania, who sustained a paralytic stroke on January 26, is now practically all right again. His lordship's peerage dates back to 1478, and his family seat is at Gormanston Castle, Balbriggan, County Meath. He is now sixty-three years old, and he has enjoyed his title since the death of his father in 1876. As a lieutenant in the 60th Rifles he served through the Indian Mutiny, and his civil career began when in 1866 he was appointed chamberlain to the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Afterwards he was a Commissioner of Irish National Education, and he became Governor of the Leeward Isles in 1885. Thence he went to British Guiana, and in 1893 he was appointed to Tasmania.

The inclusion of Dr. Villiers Stanford's 'Irish Symphony' in the programme of the Halle Band in Dublin recently, suggests to a contemporary the following particulars regarding the distinguished composer:—The well-known Professor of Music at Cambridge, Dr. Stanford, was born in Dublin in 1852, where his father, an enthusiastic amateur, was Examiner in the Court of Chancery. He studied music with Mr. A. O'Leary and Sir Robert Stewart. Dr. Stanford, it is interesting to recall, was requested by Tennyson to compose the overture, songs, and entr'actes for 'Queen Mary.' At least three operas—'The Veiled Prophet of Khorassan' (1881), 'Savonarola' (1883), and 'Shemus O'Brien' are from Professor Stanford's fertile pen. His chamber music is scholarly, and he has acquired much fame as an orchestral conductor. He has composed a sheaf of Irish songs.

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