

'Neither the oath referred to nor any similar oath has ever been taken by a Jesuit, and as to the statement that the existence of such an oath among Jesuits has never been contradicted, Mr. Willis has but to refer to the *Standard*, March 21, 1910, in which an oath, substantially the same, is denied and refuted by Rev. William Delany, S.J., and Rev. John Gerard, S.J. Father Gerard points out that the bogus oath was published in Germany in 1891 and in subsequent years, but was denounced by the Evangelical Bund (the Protestant Alliance of Germany) as a 'clumsy fraud' ('eine plumpe Falschung'), and the *Berliner Tagliche Rundschau*, the organ of the Bund, after stating that it had been urged to publish the form of oath, declared that 'it could not, and would not do so, the document being known as a fabrication by all well-informed persons,' and the *Rundschau* accordingly appealed to Protestants to be more circumspect and not to use weapons which only serve the cause of the enemy and "draw water to the Ultramontane Mill" (March 29, 1899).

'Since then Father Gerard has traced back the history of the "Form of Oath," and found that it originally appeared in *Foxes and Firebrands*, and was concocted by Robert Ware, a contemporary and fellow-worker with Titus Oates.

'As Mr. Willis, I observe, is a magistrate, and has been thus appointed to administer and maintain justice, I shall be glad to give him an opportunity of testing in open court whether such, or similar oath, is taken by a Jesuit if he will only bring the charge against any individual Jesuit.'

The *Constitution* added the following footnote to the letter:—'Needless to say, we hold no brief from the Jesuit Order, but we do in the interest of providing things honest in the sight of men, and when we printed Mr. Willis' letter we gave it as our clear opinion that the oath he ascribed to the Jesuits, as well as to the oath ascribed by Mr. Carr to the Hibernians, was nonsense, and had no existence. This view is now confirmed by the Provincial of the Jesuit Order in Ireland. Mr. Willis is undoubtedly an honorable gentleman, and he has stated that his authority is the *Christian Advocate* of October 12, 1912. The *Advocate* is a well-known paper of high standing, and, as we have unwittingly been drawn into the matter, it now clearly devolves upon the *Advocate* to show what authority it had for ascribing such a shocking oath to the Jesuit Order at all.'

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## People We Hear About

Miss Strickland, the eldest daughter of the State Governor (says the *Sydney Catholic Press*), accompanied Mr. Hawker on one of his biplane flights the other afternoon at the Randwick Racecourse. Miss Strickland is a very young girl—seventeen at most—though the responsibilities of the position she holds in consequence of her mother's indifferent health make her appear older. She is a charming girl, rather frail-looking, but in reality perfectly robust, and apart from the assistance she gives Lady Edeline in social directions, leads a very active life. At their country home, Sutton Forest, she attends to all the household accounts and writes the daily menu cards, besides taking charge of other domestic matters. The second daughter, who is fourteen years of age, looks, after the hens and chickens. As a matter of fact, the whole family of girls have their separate duties, and are brought up on lines which might advantageously be adopted by a good many in less exalted positions. The baby, a year and a half old, finds her time fully occupied up to the present in 'bossing' the rest of the household.

Mr. John H. F. Bacon, A.R.A., M.V.O., the distinguished Catholic artist, passed away at his residence, Queen's Gate Terrace, London, on January 24. Mr. Bacon was the painter of two Coronation pictures—'Homage-Giving, Westminster Abbey, August 9' (1902), and the great work representing the Coronation of King George and Queen Mary. The son of a lithographer, John Henry Frederick Bacon was born in London in 1865. He showed an aptitude for painting long before he was ten, and at the age of seventeen was drawing for some of the best-known magazines in London. After a tour of Burmah and India, he returned to England, where at Broadway, Worcester, he rented a disused Congregational chapel and began the first of a series of pictures which was to make his name familiar to the art world. He was made an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1903. Mr. Bacon the same year exhibited the first of his famous Coronation pictures. Among the best pictures of the deceased artist are those inspired by the faith he professed.

Referring to the recent appointment of Cardinal Mérry del Val as Archbishop of St. Peter's, the *Waterford News* says:—'The family of Merry, from which the Cardinal is descended, was connected with Waterford City from the first half of the seventeenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Thomas Merry, of Callan, was married to Mary White, of Waterford, and some of his children settled in this city about the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1770 Joseph Merry left Waterford for Seville, and married there Manuela, daughter of Andrew Jayte, a merchant. He died in 1804. His fourth son, Raphael, was grandfather of the present Cardinal. The oldest direct representative living of the Merry family is Joseph Xavier, who resides in London, and is now in his 86th year. Some years ago he visited Waterford for the first time, in order to discover if any records of his ancestors existed here. He paid a visit to the almshouse on Convent Hill, founded by his grand-aunt, Mary, who married one Robert Power, a corn merchant in Waterford, and was the last of this branch of the Merrys residing in Waterford. This lady survived her husband. She died in 1804. She bequeathed £8700 to the Catholic Bishop of Waterford to found an almshouse for twelve reduced gentlewomen of the City of Waterford. This charity is now administered by the Superior of the Christian Brothers.'

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