

Father Moidrey believes that the extraordinary movement for Western ideas since the late war will profoundly modify the conditions of apostolic work.

'God alone knows,' he added, 'what this new page in the history of the Chinese mission will produce, but the solid, serious qualities of the race, the number and zeal of the missionaries, the constancy of the neophytes, above all the Divine blessing inseparably attached to persecution, all abundantly permits of our carrying our hopes to the height of the dream of Xavier and Ricci—the greatest nation of the East, adoring and serving our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.'

SCANDALS IN FRANCE

HOW THE CHURCH LIQUIDATORS WORK

The French Government, when introducing the measures for the suppression of the religious Orders and the liquidation of their properties, promised that the proceeds would be utilised for providing old-age pensions. So far the results have not in many cases been sufficient to pay the official liquidators and lawyers engaged in the work, and the recent revelations go to show that the object of the Government was apparently to purchase political support by entrusting the liquidation to their friends and supporters, who were not slow in availing themselves of the opportunities thus offered. The following account of the Duez frauds by the Paris correspondent of the *London Standard*, which appeared in *Saturday's Evening Star*, will give our readers an idea how the property of the persecuted religious has been squandered:—

The excitement and indignation of the French public over the details which are pouring in from every side concerning the embezzlements in connection with the liquidation of church properties increase hourly. With the exception of one or two ultra-Government organs, which affect to treat the disappearance of what is now known to be nearly half a million sterling as an every-day occurrence of no importance, the whole press are unanimous in condemning the incredible slackness of the authorities, who, by their own admission, were fully aware of the guilt of M. Duez nearly two years ago. It is not easy to give English readers an idea how this gigantic swindle was perpetrated, and it is evident that there must have been widespread and influential collusion. An example or two will best show the *modus operandi*.

In the case of a property belonging to the Redemptorists, Duez let the whole buildings to a certain musician for £400 a year on a lease for nine years, at the option of the lessee only with option of purchase for £10,000. This works out at a price of about 34s a square yard for the land only, whereas the chapel alone cost £40,000 to build. Next came upon the scene an 'expert' architect, who confirmed the valuation of the land, and valued the chapel at 10d, though the lead roof alone was worth £2800. The buildings rented by M— for £400 have been sublet by him for £1200. In the case of the famous College Stanislaus, where Rostand and so many famous Frenchmen were educated, which was sold for £80,000, Duez asserted that the costs of liquidation (which, supposing they were incurred, ought to be paid by the liquidators) amounted to £6000, and that another £1800 was necessary to pay off people who had claims on the property; and he insisted on having these sums paid over to himself. In the balance sheet of the college they figured as 'miscellaneous expenses paid to M. Duez.' Not only were these sums never paid into the Treasury, but the £80,000 for the college was never paid.

The tribunals charged with the control of the operations of the liquidators, of whom M. Duez was one, knew these facts two years ago, yet allowed him to continue his career of embezzlement up to the present day without the slightest attempt to check it. Well may the *Figaro* say ironically: 'We can no longer accuse our Administration of lack of vigilance and perception, since they say that they knew all about these embezzlements more than two years ago.' It is impossible at present to say how far the network of confederates extended. Duez himself is reported to have said that most of the money went to the *bande noire*, as a clique of judicial officials with political support are styled. One of his principal agents was a clever attorney's clerk, who, before the liquidation, was earning £10 or £12 a month. Lately he has bought a princely chateau, surrounded by a magnificent park, in the Nièvre, which is the rendezvous for large and fashionable house parties, and where he has rented one of the finest shootings in the province.

M. Duez himself began life as an assistant in one of the great Paris emporia. He then entered as a clerk the service of M. Imbert, a judicial administrator, and one of the Panama liquidators. Through the influence of his employer Duez had himself included in the list of judicial administrators, who are not properly speaking Government officials, but representatives of the court entrusted by it with the administration and liquidation of successions and estates. Duez seems always to have been influentially backed, and to have been given large affairs with which to deal, although he confessed to his intimates that he was an ignoramus in accounts.

M. Albanel, the examining magistrate, who has charge of the case, searched the apartments and offices of the liquidator in the Rue Bonaparte. Duez had here a large establishment, and employed no fewer than 40 clerks, including 30 typewriters. A large crowd gathered round the building, and hooted the prisoner when he left, accompanied by the magistrate and two detectives. M. Albanel seized a large quantity of papers and account books, which filled a taxi-cab. They were taken away to the central police office, whilst M. Albanel and his two secretaries drove to the Department of Finance to consult about the financial experts who are to examine the monetary affairs of the prisoner.

Although there is no doubt that Duez profited personally to a very large extent, no one believes for an instant that he has pocketed a great part of the vast sums which it is now known have disappeared from the public fund. Undoubtedly he had to pay very lavishly in order to silence those who could not but understand the irregularity of his dealings. Everybody connected with the liquidation was paid very handsomely, and although it is known that Duez did not pay the amounts which he set down as lawyers' fees, it is proved, on the other hand, that the legal profession came in for a considerable proportion of the proceeds derived from the convent buildings, and the fees in every case were on a lavish scale. In one instance £560 was paid for the services of two lawyers in a case about which very little was heard in the newspapers; in another £800, and in a third £350 was paid for cases which are generally admitted not to have required such costly legal consideration.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND

In an interesting address at the opening meeting of the thirty-fourth session of Dublin University Biological Association, Dr. T. G. Moorhead, the president, dealing with 'The History of Medicine in Ireland,' pointed out that, although the records were scanty, there is sufficient evidence to show that the early Irish medicine men occupied a most important position in the country. In the earliest centuries following the introduction of Christianity into Ireland numerous students came from abroad to acquire the medical education that Ireland could afford. During the period between the eleventh century and the sixteenth the profession of medicine was hereditary in certain families, the son being educated by the father, and being finally left the possession of the hereditary text-book, which was transmitted as a family heirloom from generation to generation. Many of these text books survive, and are, for the most part, compilations of the knowledge of the ancients.

Before the twelfth century Theology and Medicine were often practised together, but when the Council of Tours forbade the shedding of blood by the clergy the profession became separated, and surgery fell into the hands of the barbers and wigmakers. In 1446 the barbers of Dublin were established as a guild, the earliest medical guild in the United Kingdom, and the precursor of the Royal College of Surgeons, which was finally established as a separate body in 1784.

When Medicine and Surgery were Separated.

From the time when the barber surgeons first became recognised, a body of men who practised pure medicine as distinct from surgery, and who disdained the humbler wielders of the knife and razor, began to come to the fore as the educated physicians of the country. Some of these men studied abroad, but many belonged to the hereditary families already referred to. They are the lineal ancestors of the College of Physicians, which was founded in Trinity Hall as an adjunct to Trinity College in 1667, under its first president, John Shawe, a Fellow of and Professor of Hebrew in Trinity College. The newly-formed college soon showed its independence, and came to blows with Trinity College over the question of the election of a Catholic president. The breach was, however, healed, and after Sir Patrick Dun, a distinguished Dublin physician, had bequeathed the greater part of his estate for the purpose of paying a Professor of Physic in Dublin, the union between the two colleges became closer than ever, and the professors appointed by the Physicians were ordered to lecture within the walls of Trinity College, Dublin. In the course of time the estate of Sir P. Dun increased in value, and at the same time the want of a hospital in Dublin, where clinical lectures might be given, became acute; so that an Act of Parliament was sought for and finally obtained, which, neglecting the wishes of Dun, sequestered a portion of his estate for the building and upkeep of the hospital now known as Sir Patrick Dun's.

In addition to the schools of the College of Surgeons and College of Physicians, many private schools existed in Dublin from an early date, and though they have now disappeared, their place has been taken by private teachers, who, though unrecognised by the chartered schools, continue to exercise an important function as scientific teachers of medicine.

The clinical schools of medicine in Ireland have for centuries been famous throughout the world. There is hardly a single chapter in the whole of medical science which does not bear testimony to the work done by Irishmen