

his uncle, then a Professor in the college, was afterwards to become the distinguished President. This Dr. Charles Russell, it is of interest to note, was the 'dear friend' named in Cardinal Newman's *Apologia*, who most helped that great Englishman to become a Catholic.

Matthew Russell joined the Jesuit novitiate in 1857. He was ordained in 1864, three years before the completion of his clerical course, a concession which was made in his case owing to the fervent desire expressed by his mother, then in failing health, that she might live to see her son a priest. After his ordination, and up till 1873, school and church work in the city of Limerick fully occupied his energies. Since then his life-work had been centred at St. Francis Xavier's, Gardiner street, Dublin, and at University College, Stephen's Green.

Father Russell was the editor of the *Irish Monthly* for about forty years, but besides attending to his ordinary work as a priest and to his editorial work he wrote voluminously. His last work—which will be published shortly—was *Lord Killowen and His Three Sisters*. The famous Lord Charles Russell, who became Lord Chief Justice of England, was Father Russell's elder brother. His three sisters, like himself, embraced the religious life, joining the Order of Mercy, in which all three have distinguished themselves.

#### MR. DEVLIN'S CHALLENGE.

Tremendous crowds attended a great Nationalist demonstration, which was held in the Courthouse Square in Nenagh in beautiful weather on September 15. Special trains brought contingents from Dublin, Limerick, Birr, and Cashel. The town was profusely decorated with flags and banners, while numerous bands played national airs through the streets. Mr. Devlin, M.P., had a most cordial welcome on arriving the previous night, being received by the Urban Council and the members of the local Nationalist organisation, while the town was illuminated in his honor. Mr. Devlin in the course of his address said some of their critics had been saying that the cause of Home Rule was dying, that their enthusiasm had evaporated, and that the struggles and sacrifices of their fathers had been forgotten in a material and degenerate age. If there were any Unionists who thought that the Nationalists had wavered in their faith, let them put that faith to the test. They were ready in every county in three Provinces, and in every county in half the other Province, to resign their seats to-morrow, and give their opponents, their critics, their assailants and enemies the opportunity of testing the intense devotion which the generation of to-day have to the principles for which their fathers fought and died. 'I go further,' he said, 'and I offer this challenge, not for Tipperary but for Belfast—that if in this modern age great issues and public controversies are to be tested in their value by the ordered judgment of the people, then here to-day—a fortnight before Ulster Day—I offer to resign my seat, if Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Bonar Law, or any of the farcical revolutionaries of the new-born Day are prepared to take the challenge up. Mr. Devlin went on to say that Unionism never took root in three Provinces; its roots were dying in the other Province. Seventeen out of the 33 Ulster constituencies stood beside their countrymen in the march to freedom, and the others were fast losing their allegiance to the men who had used the Ulster farmers and laborers for the base purposes which inspired the Ulster Unionist Party.

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## People We Hear About

A cable message states that Miss Amy Castles made a successful debut in grand opera in Vienna, playing the leading role in 'Madam Butterfly.'

Mr. C. E. Jerningham, who, under the *nom de plume* of 'Marmaduke,' wrote for *Truth* for twenty-two years, has become part-proprietor and editor of *Vanity Fair*.

The pastor of the Catholic Church of St. Stanislaus, in the Russian capital, is an Irishman, Right Rev. Monsignor Count O'Rourke, a lineal descendant of the Royal House of Ireland.

Great satisfaction is felt at the decoration bestowed on Cardinal Van Rossum by the Emperor of Austria. He has been the recipient of the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen, while Mgr. Sinibaldi has received the Grand Cross of the Order of Francis Joseph.

The Dowager Lady Rossmore, who died recently in England, was the second wife of the third Baron Rossmore, who died in 1860. She afterwards married Colonel Stacpoole, a County Clareman, who died in 1894. The deceased lady, who was the mother of the present Lord Rossmore, became a Catholic many years ago. She was a woman of great benevolence and kindness to the poor.

The Very Rev. D. J. O'Sullivan, of Society of African Missions, who recently had to leave Australia through ill-health, arrived some time ago at the Mother House of the society at Lyons, France. After resting for a while he was ordered by the Superior-General of the society, Bishop Pellet, to proceed to one of the well-known health resorts of France and take a further rest there. Father O'Sullivan contemplates a visit to America when his superiors think it wise for him to undertake work again.

Apropos of the fact that the Emperor of Austria recently celebrated his eighty-second birthday, attention has been directed to the number of eminent men who, in spite of great age, continue to take an active interest in the world's affairs. Among a number mentioned by the *London Evening News* is the Earl of Courtown, who is 89, and the fifth oldest of the House of Lords. Lord Courtown, who resides at Courtown, County Wexford, is quoted as attributing his own length of life to inherited constitution, to regular habits of life, and to thorough rest of mind and body on Sunday. 'I have no suggestions to make,' he says, 'as to a motto, and trust to the good sense of my children and grandchildren to make rules for themselves.' Judging by his own descendants, his lordship says he does not perceive any decay in the present generation of young men. His heir, Lord Stopford, is 59.

Sir Thomas Esmonde, M.P., who has received a fresh evidence of the Holy Father's esteem, was born at Pau in 1862, and is the eldest son of the 10th Baronet by Louisa, daughter and co-heir of Henry Grattan, of Tinnehinch, County Wicklow, and grand-daughter of the Right Hon. Henry Grattan. He was educated at Oscott, and succeeded his father in 1876. He held a commission in Waterford Artillery Militia for five years; High Sheriff of County Waterford for 1887; J.P. for Wexford; Director of the National Bank; sits since 1900 as a Nationalist for North Wexford, having previously represented South Dublin County (1885-92) and West Kerry (1892-1900). Sir Thomas, who has now had nearly the longest unbroken Parliamentary career of any man of his years in the House of Commons, presented Leo XIII., on behalf of the Irish Parliamentary Party, with an address of congratulation on his silver jubilee in 1902. He married in 1891 Alice, daughter of Patrick Donovan, of Frogmore, Tralee.

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