

## THOMAS DRUMMOND IN IRELAND.

A Famous Under-Secretary.

The Catholic Press, Sydney, N.S.W.  
January 9.

Now that so much public attention has been called to the office of Under-Secretary for Ireland through the criticisms which have been passed on Sir Antony MacDonnell, it is interesting to remember that the greatest of his predecessors in the office had to undergo a very similar experience. In 1835, when Thomas Drummond took up the duties of Under-Secretary, the state of Ireland was deplorable indeed. The passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act had as yet made little difference in the condition of the majority of the people. As Lecky said: "In 1833 there was not in Ireland a single Catholic Judge or Stipendiary Magistrate. All the High Sheriffs with one exception, the overwhelming majority of the unpaid magistrates and of the Grand Jurors, the five Inspectors-General, and the 32 Inspectors of Police were Protestants. The chief towns were in the hands of narrow, corrupt, and for the most part intensely bigoted Corporations. Even in a Whig Government not a single Irishman had a seat in the Cabinet, and the Irish Secretary was Mr. Stanley, whose imperious manners and unbridled temper had made him universally hated."

Drummond came with a message of peace and during the five years he was in office strove with a manly courage to put an end to strife and ill-will. He was a Scotchman, under 40 years of age, when he came over with Lord Mulgrave as Lord Lieutenant and Lord Morpeth as Chief Secretary. He had served for some years in the Royal Engineers, and was engaged from 1824 to 1830 on the Ordnance Survey.

As McLennan pointed out in his admirable memoir, Drummond studied the people at close quarters, and delighted to chat with the peasantry on the mountain side or in the engineer's office when they came to seek employment. He showed a keen sympathy with them in their sufferings, and believed that a good Government might work wonders in Ireland. The astonished indignation of the Orangemen in the North and of the landlords in the South when he calmly announced that it was landlordism which was responsible for agrarian crime found vent in a widespread conspiracy. The tithe war was raging at that time, and great bloodshed took place in various parts of Ireland, where tithes were collected at the point of the bayonet. To put an end to this lamentable state of affairs Drummond took a bold and most unexpected step. He absolutely refused the services of the military or police to help in the collection of tithes. He was denounced in language as virulent as the leaders of the old ascendancy party could command. In reply to these attacks he said: "It is my duty to maintain law and order, and I shall do so. It is not my duty to turn the police and military into tithe-collectors. Collect your unjust tithes as well as you can. I shall take care that the peace shall not be broken. But your tithe bailiffs and your parsons shall have no police or military escort from me." The wrath of the Orange body could scarcely be controlled. That body was very powerful at the time. In 1836 there were 200,000 armed Orangemen in Ireland. They were accustomed to meet in armies of 10,000, 20,000, and even 30,000 at a time. An inquiry was held, and Parliament presented a petition to the King praying for its dissolution, and this was done.

A demand was made by the landlords for the renewal of coercion, and resolutions were passed at various meetings of magistrates to this effect. In reply to one of these communications Drummond wrote the famous letter in which the phrase which is sculptured on the pedestal of his statue in the City Hall occurred—"Property has its duties as well as its rights." This was a new doctrine to hear preached from Dublin Castle, and it aroused a feeling of horror in the minds of many who denounced it as dangerous and revolutionary. In no way deterred by the threats of the supporters of the old order of things, the Under-Secretary continued on the course which caused so much dissatisfaction to the magistrates, and he even ventured to express his opinion of the way these gentlemen administered the law. He said—"Grossly have the magistrates abused their power; but their wings are clipped, and I hope and believe that there is some chance

of justice being better administered soon, and ultimately being well administered. The confidence of the people is now withheld from the local courts, and no wonder." Drummond did his best to remedy the abuses of which he openly complained. He altogether discountenanced the production of "informers" by the Government, and by his direction the custom of ordering Catholic jurors to "stand by" was discontinued.

The hostility which his work caused increased daily in bitterness. Intrigues without number were entered into against him, all that could be done to create prejudice against him in England was resorted to, and no effort spared to arouse the feelings of the more bigoted section of the public. To a man of a less sensitive mind these actions of his enemies might not have mattered very much, but to one who was above all things frank and manly the secret plotting was unbearable. He was physically far from strong, but he resolutely stuck to his duties against the advice of his friends, who saw that his health was rapidly breaking down. The support which he had received from the Government was no longer as ungrudgingly given as at the beginning, for the leaders feared that it would become unpopular in England owing to its policy: but Drummond held in the most steadfast manner to his promises and his principles, as strongly at the end as at the commencement. He had been for five years Under-Secretary when he was called away. In April, 1840, he died, after an illness of but three days. The last request he made was that he should be buried in Ireland. "I have loved her well," said he, "I have served her faithfully, and lost my life in her service." His last wish was gratified, and he was laid to rest in Mount Jerome Cemetery, regretted by the people he loved so well.

## THE QUALITY OF MOORE'S CATHOLICITY.

By Rev. Hugh F. Blunt, in Donahoe's for March.

Irony! Well might he be suspected of irony even when defending the faith. He professed his faith in the Church, he said he believed it was the true Church, he had said to one who had tried to make a Protestant of him, "I was born and bred in the faith of my fathers, and in that faith I intend to die;" yet does it not all seem ironical? In 1833 when the "Travels" appeared, his son, John Russell, was only ten years old, and Thomas Landsdowne, fifteen; both young enough still to be educated in the Catholic faith had Moore the courage to do so, but there is no reference to any Catholic instruction being given them, and when, at the age of nineteen, Russell comes to die it is the Protestant communion that is given to him, while Moore sits in a distant room. Was the Catholic faith a subject for fine literature only, not good enough for the souls of the children who looked to him for the bread of life? "Hail then to thee, thou one and only true Church, which art alone the way of life and in whose tabernacle alone there is shelter from all this confusion of tongues. In the shadow of the sacred mysteries let my soul henceforth repose, remote alike from the infidel who scoffs at their darkness and the rash believer who vainly would pry into its recesses, saying to both in the language of St. Augustine, 'Do you reason while I shall believe, and beholding the heights of divine power, forbear to approach its depths.'"

## La Grippe Coming Again

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"Oh well," remarked the rejected suitor, "there are just as many good fish in the sea as ever came out of it."

"Yes," agreed the damsel, "and there are not so many fishermen today as there were yesterday."

"I don't understand you."

"One of them," she explained, as she showed him a written proposal, "dropped me a line this morning."

## The Average Man Doesn't Know The First Thing

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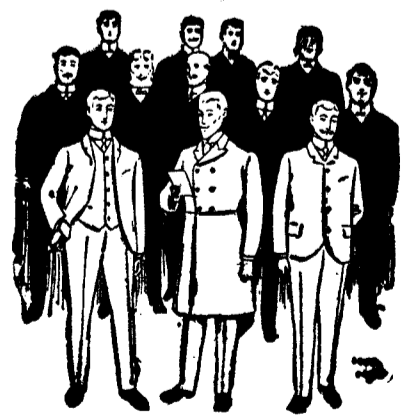
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A FEW POINTERS

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There are districts that have been settled for many years in which land can be purchased. Some of this may be unbroken prairie which still possesses all the richness and productive powers of our virgin prairies. Other lands, cultivated and having comfortable farm buildings, are ready for immediate possession.

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For information regarding homesteads apply at the Dominion Land Office.

For purchase of Provincial lands apply at the Provincial Land Office in the Parliament Buildings.

For C. P. R. or C. N. R. lands apply at the land offices of said railway companies.

For lands owned by private individuals apply to the various real estate agents in the city.

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