

A cousin of Thomas Grady, the satirist, his language was as crude, and his wit as savage, as was the latter's. His vote for the Union was bought by Castlereagh with an appointment as commissioner of revenue at a salary of £1,200 a year. Grady had the good grace to put neither cap or cloak on this dishonourable transaction, and when tackled by a constituent with the words:—"What! do you mean to sell your country?" he is said to have replied:—"Thank God that I have a country to sell."

He cared nothing for his constituents and did not hesitate to say so. "I get nothing good from them," he said. Begad, if I only shake hands with them they give me the itch." After the Union, the Limerick electors met and appointed a deputation of three to wait on Grady and express disapproval of his act. He listened with patience as they accused him of injuring his country, deserting his duty, and betraying his constituents. "Nonsense, gentlemen—rank nonsense," he shouted to the deputation, which consisted of a Protestant Bishop, an eminent doctor and a general who had served in China, "you come between me and my constituents, and induce them to condemn me on the ipse dixit of a republican parson, a quack doctor, and a battered old mandarin." The deputation, feeling Harry was getting personal, bowed and withdrew.

Grady's career at the Bar was successful and full of amusing incidents. His coarse manner and ready wit, as well as his "jury-eye," with which he used to wink at the jury whenever he wanted to stress a point, kept the Munster Circuit in constant good spirits. The best court story told of him is one in which his cousin figured as a witness on the opposite side. Grady, when addressing the jury, referred to him as "this wretched creature for whom I can find no fitter appellation than a miserable jackal." Meeting his maligned cousin a few days later, Grady invited himself to dinner and would not allow his cousin's offended feelings to put him off.

The Bar suffered a loss by Castlereagh's bribery, for Harry Grady retired on obtaining his new appointment and lived in comparative obscurity in a beautiful residence near Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. His house was called "The House of Lords," because his three lovely daughters attracted so many peers there. Three of them were annexed and Grady had the old man's pleasure of being father to a Lady Muskerry, a Lady Masserene, and a Lady Roche.

## JOHN HIGGINS

John Higgins, physician, was the son of Doctor Patrick Higgins, of Limerick City, and his wife, Mary Loftus, of Annacotty. He was born about the year 1678, and probably

left Ireland to reside with his family in France after the Treaty of Limerick.

He was educated at the University of Montpellier and graduated Doctor of Medicine, after a brilliant course in 1700. In 1704, he went with the Duke of Berwick to Spain, and saw much active service as chief medical officer to the combined French and Spanish forces.

In 1712 he married the daughter of Jean Baptiste de Courtiade, the town doctor of Bayonne. Saint-Simon, the famous diarist, tells us that she was "witty, gracious and virtuous," and that the marriage was a happy one.

He worked unsparingly for the relief of the sick soldiers during the siege of Barcelona in 1714; and in 1717 he received the highest possible medical post in Spain, the office of Protomedico de Camera. The following year he was elected President of the Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery of Seville.

Higgins remained all the while a staunch friend of Ireland and the Irishmen in Spain; and when war was declared on England in 1718 he was instrumental in preventing the confiscation of the goods and property of the Irish merchants.

In 1721, when the Duke of Saint-Simon fell dangerously ill, the King sent Higgins to look after him. After being tended by Higgins for about six months he became well again. They became the best of friends and Saint-Simon has left two charming pen-pictures of the Irish physician.

In 1722 Philip V bestowed on him the title of Councillor of Castille, and in 1724 James III, remembering his good service to France, made him a knight and baronet. He died in Seville in 1729 at the early age of fifty-one, leaving his wife and children well provided for.

## JOHN P. HOLLAND

John P. Holland, inventor of the modern submarine, was born at Liscannor, County Clare, on 24th February, 1841. His father's position as coastguard on the Clare coasts roused his early interest in shipping and the great fleet of the British Navy, and he realised that only some secret weapon could overpower it. About this time also, during the American Civil War, the fight between the "Merrimac" and the "Monitor" had shown that armoured battleships had come to stay, and it was obvious to Holland that only under-water attack could make any impression on these ironclad monsters.

Holland was educated at the Christian Brothers' Schools in Limerick, and later he became a school-teacher in his native county. Here he worked on the plans of his proposed under-water boat, but he received no official encouragement, was thought to be mad, and, in exasperation, left Ireland for the