

was accepted. They were married at the British Embassy in Paris in October, 1833, and the "Court Journal" of the day uncharitably expressed the pious wish that her marriage would prevent her reappearance on the stage.

They lived together in poverty for seven years, and, according to Berlioz, she became short-tempered, exacting and jealous under the strain. In 1840, they separated by mutual consent, and, although Berlioz took another partner, he continued to support Harriet until her death.

She suffered from almost complete paralysis for the last four years of her life and died at Montmartre on 3rd March, 1954, where she lies buried side by side with Berlioz's second wife.

Christopher North, who saw her with Macready as Jane Shore in 1830 sums up her stage character very neatly:—"An actress not only of great talent but of genius—a very lovely woman—and, like Miss Jarman, altogether a lady in private life."

## TOM STEELE.

Honest Tom Steele, politician and engineer, Ireland's "Head Pacificator," was born at Derrymore in the Co. Clare, on 3rd November, 1783, his antecedents having come to Ireland in the reign of Charles II. He graduated B.A. at Trinity College in 1810, M.A. at Cambridge in 1820, and soon after became a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

His uncle's death placed him in possession of the large family estate at Cullane, where he lived for a short time. But he preferred the old ruins of Cragganowen Castle, situated on the side of the little lake, to the barrack-like Georgian family residence. He intended to restore this castle, but his money was spent on even more quixotic purposes. When the people of Spain revolted against the despotic rule of Ferdinand VII, he mortgaged his estate to raise £10,000 for the rebel army, and, receiving a commission therein, he fought with distinction at the Siege of Cadiz. On the defeat of the rebels, he returned to England and wrote an account of his part in the wars, entitled "Notes on the War in Spain."

Although a Protestant, Steele joined with O'Connell in the great struggle for Catholic Emancipation, opened the latter's electoral campaign in Co. Clare, and issued a challenge to any Clare landlord who didn't like his politics. With Steele on one side and the old fire-eater O'Gorman Mahon on the other, O'Connell was safe from insult, for none would risk a duel with either of these fiery spirits. For his services, O'Connell bestowed on Steele the slightly ridiculous title, of which, however, Steele was extremely proud, of "Head Pacificator."

He adored O'Connell and had a chapel built in his house so that O'Connell could hear Mass whenever he came to Cullane—and, true to his romantic ideas, he had the altar made from the cap-stone of a local dolmen, which, in those days, was often called a druid's altar.

Although he took a less active part in Irish politics after the passing of the Emancipation Act, he remained the staunch friend of the Liberator, declaring that he would sit on a mine at the latter's direction. In 1839, there being rumours of an invasion of Belgium, he offered his services to the King of the Belgians, but was turned down. Being now extremely hard-up, having squandered all his money and much of his friends' on his quixotic schemes, he went to London and took to engineering for a living. It was here he wrote the pamphlet "Practical suggestions for the Improvement of the Navigation of the Shannon," which contained particulars of a diving bell, invented by Steele himself, and very practical suggestions for improving the Shannon. The pamphlet also contained an article on the treatment of Catholics since the Siege. Nobody but Steele could have ended a very practical engineering treatise with the following passage descriptive of Limerick City: "And when I stand in the ancient Cathedral of Limerick and listen to the choir and organ; when I hear the chant of the High Mass and ringing of the Mass bell, and view the incense ascending from the altar in one of their convent chapels; when I wander through the garden of the Holy Sisterhood of St. Clare and view their figures gliding among the Gothic ruins, or when I stand within the sanctuary of their convent chapel; when I sit upon a gloomy evening, and listen to the sullen sough of the wind among the dark elms over my head, and the rushing flood of the Shannon that sweeps at its basement, and hear the roar of the bugles, the beat of the drum and 'the voice of the trumpet' within the court of the Castle—I become inspired by a feeling, solemn and mournful, different from that of which I am susceptible in any other place in the world, but not very unlike that with which, upon the shore of the solitary lake where he reposes, I hear the wind whisper at night in the grass around the grave of my father, whom I have never seen."

Already half-demented with poverty and privation, when Steele heard of the death of his beloved Liberator in 1848, he attempted suicide by jumping into the Thames off Waterloo Bridge. Even here, poor Steele used the grand manner, but instead of instant death he was taken out horribly mangled and lived in agony for a few days longer. He died on the 15th June, 1848, and was buried in Glasnevin, beside the remains of his chieftain.

O'Neill Daunt wrote of him: "His very faults were often the exaggeration of high and noble qualities. If he shared the

extravagance of Don Quixote, he also partook of the Don's contempt for baseness, perfidy and cowardice." Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, wrote his obituary: "Fare thee well, noble, honest Tom Steele! A braver spirit in a gentler heart never left earth. . . ."

### SIR MATHEW TIERNEY, M.D., BART.

Sir Mathew John Tierney, physician, was born on 24th November, 1776, near Rathkeale, County Limerick, where his father, John Tierney, kept a small shop. His mother was Mary, daughter of James Gleeson, of Rathkinnon. Tierney was educated in the parish school of Athlacca, and later studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, in London. For a time after this he practised as Surgeon to the South Gloucester Regiment of Militia, and cultivated the friendship of the Earl of Berkeley and his friend, Edward Jenner, another famous doctor and scientist. From the latter he learned the usefulness of vaccination against small pox, and being convinced of its efficacy, dedicated his life to the popularization of its cause.

In 1799, he resumed his studies in the University of Edinburgh, and while here, having convinced a noted opponent of vaccination, Professor James Gregory, of his erroneous prejudices, the latter persuaded him to vaccinate his own son. The vaccination proved successful, and two years later, Tierney obtained the M.D. of Glasgow University with a thesis on his pet subject, "De Variola Vaccina." He then opened a practice in Brighton and through the influence of his old friend, Earl Berkeley, was appointed physician to the Prince of Wales.

In 1808, he married Harriet Mary Jones, of London, but had no children by her.

He continued to work in the cause of compulsory vaccination and eventually his work was recognised by his being admitted a Licentiate of the College of Physicians in London. When he Prince of Wales became George the Fourth, he was appointed physician in ordinary to the King, and this post was continued under George's successor, William IV. He was knighted for his services in 1818, and made a Knight Commander of the Guelphic Order in 1831. In 1845, he published another work on vaccination:—"Observations on Variola Vaccina or Cow-pock."

Tierney died at Brighton on 28th May, 1845, and his title passed to his younger brother, Edward, who was then Crown Solicitor of Dublin, and the hero of the famous suit of Earl of Egmont v. Dayrell, baronet, to recover back the Egmont estates which the Tierney family held under a will of the late Earl of Egmont.

Sir Mathew Tierney's bust is preserved in the Library of the Limerick Institution.