

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.