

The President of the Legislative Council has long been among the prominent politicians of the colony; and his name will be recorded in connection with the early history of those representative institutions which are destined, we trust to endure, with improvements which experience may suggest, and which the progress of the country may demand, for ages to come.

Terence Aubrey Murray was born at Limerick, in Ireland, in the year 1810. His father, Captain Thomas Murray, was in the Coldstream Guards, and afterwards in the 48th Regiment. The Murray family came over from Scotland in the reign of James I., and in the time of William III. the bearers of this name, a father and seven sons, fought for James II. Six of the young men fell in battle, the father and his youngest son alone survived, and followed Sarsfield in his subsequent career.

In 1800 Captain Murray went to Spain, and was serving in the Peninsula when his son was born. The subject of this sketch saw very little of his father during the first seventeen years of his life. His mother died during his infancy. One of his uncles was hospital assistant at the battle of Waterloo, and afterwards took the degree of M.D. at Edinburgh, and went to India as assistant-surgeon to the 17th Lancers. In consequence of his successful treatment of a dangerous case in the family of a member of the Council, he was recommended to the head of the Government there, and continued on the medical staff of three successive Governors General. He returned to Ireland with considerable wealth, and purchased an estate on the banks of the Shannon, near the early home of the family.

T. A. Murray was educated under the care of the Rev. William White, A.M., in Dublin. In 1826 his father, Captain Murray, who had come out with his regiment to New South Wales after the conclusion of the war, and spent some seven years in this country, returned to England on sick leave. His son joined him, and in the following year came out with him to Australia. He had been expecting to enter the University; and some of his friends encouraged him to study for the Bar. But though his taste for literature inclined him to a learned profession, he preferred to comply with the dictates of filial affection, and at his father's earnest request accompanied him to this country.

On his arrival in New South Wales Mr. Murray, at the age of seventeen, commenced colonial life by taking charge of his father's sheep-station at Lake George. For four years he lived a solitary life there. It was a rare thing to see any one besides a few shepherds and other labourers and the blacks of the district.

In 1833 he was called to Sydney by his father, and directed to present himself at Government House. It had been represented to the Governor, Sir Richard Bourke, that there were several young men in the country who were qualified by intelligence, energy, and character to act the part of magistrates; and Mr. Murray's name was mentioned in the list of those judged worthy of this trust. The result was that he was gazetted as a magistrate of the territory, at the early age of twenty-two. During the next few years, the country was in a very disturbed state, in consequence of the depredations of bushrangers; and these magistrates who were resolutely determined to do their duty, had much difficulty to contend with. The mounted police were stationed in the southern districts, under the command of Lieutenant (now Colonel) Waddy. It devolved on Mr. Murray, whose magisterial authority extended over the whole of the Parramatta and Monaro districts, and included the distant towns of Gundaroo, Yass, and Queanbeyan, to direct the movements of his force. Lieutenant Waddy lived with him; and, taking counsel together, they acted with harmony and resolution, and succeeded in accomplishing much for the restoration of general security.

The services rendered to the community by Mr. Murray, in the vigorous exercise of his magisterial authority, and the liberal views he entertained and avowed on public questions, rendered him popular in the southern district; and when the first step was taken in the introduction of representative institutions, in 1843, he was elected unanimously for the counties of Murray, King, and Georgiana, which then formed an electorate. At the general election of 1848 he was returned again without opposition by the same constituency; and the electors at Queanbeyan and Yass entertained him at public dinners in token of their approval of his conduct in the Legislature. At the general election of 1851, under an enlarged constitution and redistribution of the electorate, Mr. Murray was returned for the Southern Boroughs without opposition. He was again elected in 1856, and under the new electoral law of 1858 he was returned as member of the Legislative Assembly for Argyle. In short, from 1843, when the first glimmer of popular representation was admitted into the Legislative Council of those days, down to the time of his entering the Upper House in 1862, Mr. Murray continuously represented a southern constituency in the Legislature. And he was the only man who—without any interruption—thus continued to sit as a representative of the people in the councils of the country during all those years. Mr. Wentworth, Mr. Cowper, Dr. Lang, and others who were associated with Mr. Murray in the early part of his public career, were for longer or shorter periods, out of the House during that time.

His political principles have all along been liberal and his aims progressive. He was one of the first and most earnest advocates of a change in the Land System, with a view to open up the country for freehold settlement, and joined in efforts for the extension of the suffrage. He did not, however, fall in with the views of the party which carried the chief liberal measure of the last fifteen years. He was always remarkable for independence of spirit; and in maintaining his own views with conscientious tenacity, he probably put away some opportunities of securing that success for the attainment of which close combination with other men was indispensable. On the 7th September, 1857, he was made Minister of Lands and Works in the Cowper Administration. But though his opinions on the land question were liberal, compared with those which had been current among men of power in the colony, he was not prepared to carry out the popular views then beginning to be advocated by the most advanced land reformers; and in January, 1858, he retired from the Ministry and was succeeded, as Secretary for Lands and Works, by Mr. John Robertson.

In January, 1860, on the retirement of Sir Daniel Cooper from the Speakership, Mr. Murray was unanimously chosen Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and in October, 1862, he retired from that office, and was appointed President of the Legislative Council, succeeding in that position Mr. W. C. Wentworth. While in the Assembly, Mr. Murray had introduced a bill to abolish the rule of primogeniture. This important and just measure he left in the hands of Dr. Lang; and after being delayed for seven years by the prejudices aroused against such a departure from the ancient Law of England and return to the Law of France, the Bill was sent up to the Council. The President, seeing that the measure was even then in danger,—the influence of judges having been brought to bear upon the minds of the members of the Council,—to prevent their agreeing with the Bill,—left the chair, and argued so clearly and forcibly for it, that the House unanimously agreed to pass it.

Having held the highest position in Parliament during the visit of H. R. Prince Alfred to this colony, Mr. Murray resigned from his Majesty, in the early part of 1862 the honour of Knighthood. He has now held the office of President of the Legislative Council more than ten years, much longer than any of his predecessors.

Sir T. A. Murray has been twice married; and has several sons and daughters.—Town and Country Journal, Sydney.

The reaction in the coal market, at least as far as the London market is concerned, continues. The top price for house coal is now 30s.

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At the Mayo Assizes on Saturday, Edward Walsh, who had been found guilty of murdering his wife, was sentenced to be hanged on the 19th of August. Mr. Justice Fitzgerald said he could not hold out any hope of reprieve. The "Civil Service Review" publishes a rumour under reserve that the Government is preparing a scheme for the remodelling of the entire Civil Service upon a uniform basis. In consequence of the frauds which have recently been discovered in certain public offices, the Lords of the Treasury have summarily dismissed the gentleman who is at the head of the stationery office in Dublin. At the Trave Assizes on Saturday, in the case of Sullivan and Fitzgerald, indicted for manslaughter, the jury, having been locked up all night, were discharged, as they were unable to agree. The prisoners were admitted to bail. Roger Savage, who had pleaded guilty to having caused the death of his mother by violent means was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. It appeared that he is occasionally not accountable for his actions. A sum of £14,000 is asked for in the supplemental estimates to defray the charges of British jurors, officials, &c., at the Vienna Exhibition. £7,000 is also required as a portion of the expenses incurred in connection with the visit of the Shah. A very complimentary address has been presented to John M. O'Brien, S. I., from the magistrates and gentry of the Swords district. A valuable piece of silver plate accompanied the address. Mr. O'Brien's future station is Kilkenny. In addition to the massacre at the Town hall, other atrocities, scarcely less terrible, are reported to have been committed at Alcoy. It is said that one of the principal and most respectable inhabitants was seized by the insurgents, and after his clothes had been sprinkled with petroleum, he was set on fire and made to run while shots were taken at him. It is positively known that Alcoy is in the mercy of the mob, that the Town hall has been stormed, and the Mayor and other leading citizens, with the Guards who fought for them, put to death, and numerous buildings, chiefly manufactories, burnt to the ground. The insurgents have created barricades in order to resist the entry of the force despatched by the Madrid Government when it learnt the news. They have also, after the example of the Paris Commune, taken hostages from among the respectable inhabitants, improving upon the example, however, by taking not only the heads of families but the wives and children as well. The death is announced of Sir David Salomon, M.P. for Greenwich, the first Jew who sat in the British Parliament. He was created a baronet in 1860, with special remainder to his nephew, David Lionel only son of his brother, Mr. Peter Salomon, born in 1851, by whom he is succeeded. Three candidates are mentioned for the vacant seat—a Conservative, a Ministerial Liberal, and a Radical. The death of the Bishop of Winchester is announced. The deceased prelate—the Right Rev. Samuel Wilberforce—was the third son of the celebrated philologist, William Wilberforce. He was born in 1805, and was educated at Oxford. In 1845 he was consecrated Bishop of Oxford. A few years ago he was transferred to the see of Winchester. On Saturday evening while riding with Lord Granville from Hurford, fell from his horse and was killed instantaneously. Before the French Assembly breaks up, it is understood that it will vote the bill authorising the Archbishop of Paris to build a church on the heights of Montmartre. The Scotch Fishery Board have issued their report for 1873. The number of boats employed during the year is stated to have been 15,238, manned by 46,178 fishermen; and the value of the total catch 2,997,293. The east coast fisheries generally show expansion and development, while there was a falling off in those of the west coast in 1873. The four companies of the 64th Regiment which have been stationed at Haulbowline and Spike Island for the past three months will rejoin headquarters at Limerick on or about the 24th inst. The Shah was highly amused at seeing a copy of the *Figaro*, containing on the front page a long letter in the Persian character. The writing was perfectly correct, but, unfortunately, it has been reproduced by photography, and all the words were inverted. His Majesty and suite all laughed heartily at this oversight. Very great dissatisfaction pervades in nearly every grade of the employes of the Post-office, but more particularly the sorters, sub-sorters, and letter carriers. The men seem to consider that the representations they had hitherto made to the Government have not received that attention to which they were entitled. It has been resolved to forward another memorial, indeed, we think, we might more correctly describe it as an ultimatum to the Postmaster General, in which his attention will be called to the grievances of which the men complain. On the reply of Mr. Monell to this memorial depends the future proceedings of the men. At Newcastle Assizes on Thursday last, Miss Turnbull sued a faithless swain, one John Murray, for that very common crime, a breach of promise. Murray, repentant and remorseful for his promise, bade her an affectionate farewell, and hoped they would meet in Heaven, "where parting would be no more." Miss Turnbull writes in reply, "I cannot paint you in colours too black, you old hypocrite; could you look your Maker in the face? You raving hypocrite, how those well-sungured lips of yours no regard for the truth? How dare you write to me such stuff about meeting in heaven?" After that Murray ceased in, and endured the attentions of Miss Turnbull's lawyers. The jury gave the injured dame, age 45, no less than £500 damages. The female correspondent of a New York paper gives what purports to be the report of a conversation between herself and the Empress Eugenie at Geneva. "The Empress expressed her firm conviction in God's good time that France would lead a reaction against the forces which, until now, seemed to threaten the very existence of society and religion throughout all Europe. Her Majesty is quite satisfied with the progress of her cause in France, and confident as to the future of her dynasty. 'I see it all before me,' said the Empress, 'France once more at the head of the nations—the robber driven out of Rome—the Pope restored to his dominions—Germany divided again into small and harmless states—Austria freed from her sticky her ancient faith and hand in hand with France.' In the match between the Canadian election agents fifteen of the M.P.C. which was announced on Monday at Conard's ground, Mr. W. G. Grace in playing on behalf of the Canadian eleven made the score of 162 being caught out at the end of a 4th innings by Bird. At the end of the first innings he made 391. The M.C.C. then went in and four certain wickets fell for 18. Lord Westbury died on Sunday morning after suffering a few days from an illness which, from the first, left no hope of his recovery. Lord Westbury (Richard Bethell) was born in 1800, was called to the Bar in 1823, and soon distinguished himself as a Chancery barrister. He was made a Queen's Counsel in 1840, and continued to practise in the Equity Courts, until 1863. On the resignation of the Aberdeen Cabinet, he was appointed Solicitor-General, and received the honour of Knighthood. In November, 1868, he succeeded Sir A. Cockburn as Attorney-General. He declined an offer made to him by Lord Palmerston of the Undersecretary of