

The Cover

Five Members of Parliament

A charcoal on paper by Charles Paul Renouard is reproduced by kind permission of the National Gallery of Ireland. This cover is sponsored by Servier Laboratories.

The group shows five members of parliament at Westminster and was probably painted in 1886 or 1887: Thomas Sexton is standing on the left holding his hat in his hand; William O'Brien is seated in front of him; Dr. Charles Kearns Deane Tanner is seated at the back with his hand on the bench in front of him; Justin McCarthy is seated wearing a top hat; Timothy Michael Healy is seated to the front on the right.

Thomas Sexton (1848-1932) was born at Ballygannon, Co. Waterford, and was educated at the local Christian Brothers School. He contributed leaders to the *Nation*, joined the Parnellite party and was elected a member of parliament for Sligo in 1880. He became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1888 and left politics after the Parnellite split. He was in charge of the *Freeman's Journal* from 1892-1912.

William O'Brien (1852-1928) was born at Mallow, Co. Cork. He took up journalism and became editor of the land league journal, *United Ireland*. His militant views caused suppression of the journal and he was arrested. In 1883 he was elected a member of parliament and with John Dillon began a campaign to force landlords to reduce exorbitant rents. He wrote two novels and some volumes of reminiscences.

Dr. Charles Kearns Deane Tanner (1849-1901). Son of Dr. Tanner an eminent physician from Cork, he was educated in Paris and Winchester, and studied medicine at Leipzig, Berlin and Queen's College, Cork, where he graduated in Arts and Medicine. He was physician to a number of hospitals in Cork and was elected an "Irish Nationalist" member of parliament in 1885. He soon became party whip and was elected Mayor of Cork in 1890.

Justin McCarthy (1830-1912) was born near Cork. He joined the *Cork Examiner* at the age of seventeen, and later worked for the *Northern Daily Times* and the *Morning Star*. He published a number of popular novels as well as a successful contemporary history. He was elected a member of parliament for Longford in 1879 and became vice-chairman of the Parnellite party.

Timothy Michael Healy (1855-1931) was born at Bantry, Co. Cork and educated at the Christian Brothers School in Fermoy from which he departed at thirteen years of age to become a railway clerk in Newcastle-on-Tyne. He later moved to London and became parliamentary correspondent for the *Nation*. He joined Parnell's party, was returned as a member of parliament for Wexford and soon became a dominant force in parliament. In 1922 after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, he was appointed Governor-General of the Irish Free State.

Charles Paul Renouard (1845-1925) was born in France and studied art in Paris. Though he was a reasonably competent painter (he painted Queen Victoria's children), he was best known as an illustrator, etcher and engraver. He contributed regularly to papers and magazines such as the *Daily Graphic* and *Harper's Weekly*.

Biographical details for Sexton, O'Brien, McCarthy and Healy are taken from: Boylan H. *A Dictionary of Irish Biography*. Gill and Macmillan. Dublin 1978. The biographical note on Kearns Tanner is from: *Dod's Parliamentary Companion*. Whitaker & Co. London 1888; p342 and 1900; p360. I am grateful to Anne Crookshank for details on Charles Renouard.

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