

4 August

Br THOMAS CURRY

23 December 1837 – 4 August 1893



‘Dunbrody supported itself largely from the sale of feathers’, Andrew Hartmann tells us (ZMR 9/113), and it was the merit of Br Thomas Curry, an Irishman, who started the industry at Dunbrody and brought it to the paying step.’ Born in Meath, Tom Curry joined the Society in 1868 and came out to Africa in 1882. Hard-

working and silent he pursued the, often dangerous, work of rearing ostriches. On one occasion he barely escaped the claws of an enraged cock. He threw himself under a mimosa bush where a thorn struck him in one eye causing him to lose his sight in that eye. (The photo shows a pope carried on a movable throne surrounded by ostrich feathers. The feathers had a purpose originally – to keep insects away when the Eucharist was being celebrated – but they became more and more decorative and fanciful as time went on).