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Autore	Mollan R. Charles
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Nota di contenuto	FIVE: Negotiating 'a difficult sectarian terrain': the public life and political opinions of the 3rd Earl of RosseSIX: A consummate engineer; SEVEN: Birr Castle observations of non-stellar objects and the development of nebular theories; EIGHT: William Parsons and the Irish nineteenth-century tradition of independent astronomical research; NINE: 'A presiding influence': the relations of the 3rd Earl of Rosse with scientific institutions in Britain and Ireland; TEN: The 3rd Earl of Rosse: an assessment; Select bibliography; Index. WILLIAM PARSONS, 3RD EARL OF ROSSE: Astronomy and the castle in nineteenth-century Ireland; Half Title Page; Title Page; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Illustrations; Contributors; Foreword; Preface: why this book?; Acknowledgements; Introduction; Succession of the Parsons family at Birr; ONE: History of the Parsons family1 and Birr Castle; TWO: Origin of the 3rd Earl's interest in astronomy; THREE: Mary, Countess of Rosse (1813-85); FOUR: William Parsons' influence on the town and community of Birr.
Sommario/riassunto	This is a revealing account of the family life and achievements of the

Third Earl of Rosse, a hereditary peer and resident landlord at Birr Castle, County Offaly, in nineteenth-century Ireland, before, during and after the devastating famine of the 1840s. He was a remarkable engineer, who built enormous telescopes in the cloudy middle of Ireland. The book gives details, in an attractive non-technical style which requires no previous scientific knowledge, of his engineering initiatives and the astronomical results, but also reveals much more about the man and his contributions - locally in the.

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