

came before Mr. Justice Meredith in the Land Commission Court on November 7, on a question of fixing the redemption price of a charge of £500 a year in favor of the widow of the late General D. Redmond, his Lordship said that he was obliged to declare the estate insolvent. The 'bonus' provided by the new Land Act will not be payable therefore to Mr. Redmond, but must form part of the corpus of the fund available for encumbrances. It was stated that even after the 'bonus' had been taken from Mr. Redmond this fund would still be deficient by about £400. The deficiency is said to be the result of the fall in Consols.

GENERAL

The Reason Why

The 'Westminster Gazette,' referring to the fact that Professor Mahaffy, 'the most brilliant and versatile of the Fellows of Trinity College,' has been staying at Sandringham, and preaching before the king, says: 'In another and a later world we shall know why Professor Mahaffy was not selected to succeed Dr. Salmon as Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.' The reason of the selection of Dr. Traill, a gentleman of no scholastic or literary eminence, for that position in preference to Dr. Mahaffy is well known. Dr. Mahaffy, although a strong Tory, held the views which Mr. Wyndham professed on the subject of Catholic University Education.

The Land Act

In the course of an interview in Sydney Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., referring to the Land Act, said: It was wonderful what a change it made in the people. There was no question of arrears, and there was a feeling that a man now labored for his own benefit and not that of the landlord. It was not the same place. As far as land purchase had gone in Ireland, it had had the best results, and the people had paid their instalments to the Government with the most wonderful regularity. In the congested districts of the West of Ireland the present Land Act may not work well, and may need amendment, but in the other parts of Ireland they all hope that the Bill of last year will be a great success. At any rate, it marks a great stride in advance. A couple of years ago no man could have dreamed that so good a Bill would have passed into law.

The University Question

In a letter to the 'Spectator' Dr. Hogan shows clearly that he did not advocate the policy of exclusive dealing as suggested by Professor Dowden, and adds that there is in it something absolutely repugnant to the feelings and instincts of Irishmen and Catholics. Dr. Hogan proves that exclusive dealing is largely practised in Ireland by Protestants, and quotes facts which there can be no gainsaying to that effect. Referring to the gross injustice which Irishmen suffer with regard to higher education, he says some years ago Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham went through the farce of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of university education in Ireland. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Cadogan, went through the farce of announcing that the report of that Commission would be followed by legislation. Some Catholics spent weary months, during which they might have been better employed, studying and preparing the case, which they felt to be righteous and just, in such a way as to convince the most hostile and prejudiced judges. They made their case, and the decision was practically given in their favor; but then Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham tell them almost in mockery that nothing can be done. It is a position which Sir Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston, and Mr. Gladstone would have been ashamed to occupy. And yet the Catholics are expected to sit down quietly and submit without a protest to the shelving of a question which is at the root and origin of all the other injustices from which they suffer. The 'Spectator' in an editorial note will not admit that Protestants are unfairly preferred to Catholics, but adds: 'As regards the question of a Roman Catholic University, however, we are in full agreement with Dr. Hogan. We think Mr. Balfour's action on this question showed the most deplorable weakness. He subordinated what he knew to be the wise and right course to Cabinet exigencies.'

An extraordinary proof of the modern collecting craze is the fact that General Kuroki has been receiving numberless applications from autograph-hunters and celebrity-mongers for specimens of his writing. More extraordinary still, while engaged in the command of one of the great armies of history, and in the planning of one of the greatest battles on record, he has replied to some of their requests.

Much of the lightness in draft for which the McCormick Binder is so celebrated is due to the use of roller bearings in both the main and grain wheels, as well as in many of the gearings and shaftings of the machine....

People We Hear About

John Plimmer, who has been styled the 'Father of Wellington,' died on Thursday, aged ninety-two. He arrived in Wellington in 1841, and has been closely associated with the growth and development of the city. He has been ailing for some months.

Conspicuous among the Mikado's naval officers is Rear Admiral S. Urui, who commands the Japanese flying squadron, composed entirely of cruisers. Rear Admiral Urui acquired his first knowledge of the art of naval warfare at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, from which he was graduated in 1882, standing fourteenth in a class of seventy-six.

Admiral Togo, the Japanese naval commander, is a man of few words, but of iron determination. One of his most remarkable characteristics is his capacity for remaining perfectly still for hours without moving a muscle or saying a word. It is said that his habit of musing, with nothing but his pipe as a companion, has stuck to him all through his career, and that it is during these moments that he makes his plans for the destruction of an enemy or the improvement of his own fleet.

The King of Korea, who ascended the throne when he was twelve years of age, is seldom seen by his subjects. When, however, he does condescend to appear in public a remarkable spectacle is witnessed. All the shops are closed, and his Majesty is preceded by a crowd of individuals dressed in the most fantastic of garments. The din created by cymbals, drums, pipes, trumpets, bells, and the voices of the multitude is indescribable. The Emperor travels in the imperial chair of state, which is carried by thirty runners.

Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador in London, is a diplomat who is very popular in the English capital, notwithstanding the rude reception which awaited him at the railway station on his return from the Continent lately to take up the negotiations arising out of the Hull trawler trouble. The Count is a man of high standing in the diplomatic world, of considerable culture and education, to whose self-restraint and common sense has been in a considerable measure due the preservation of peace between Russia and England in the recent crisis.

Until a year or two ago the Emperor of Japan was an enthusiastic wrestler. He threw out challenge after challenge to the members of the Court and his council and advisers, and defeated fairly and completely everyone who tried conclusions with him until he met Count Tetsu, who proved one too many for him. Since the encounter, although he encourages the sport in every possible way, he has kept out of the arena. 'Count Tetsu is now champion,' he would say. 'I have failed to throw him. Someone else must try.'

A pretty story is being told of Oyama, Chief of the Japanese General Staff. During his service as judge advocate at Tokio he attended a ball one night. He was standing near a doorway at this ball when a beautiful European woman swept by, and so greatly did her charm impress Judge Oyama that he exclaimed, involuntarily: 'What a lovely woman!' She overheard him. With a little smile she looked back over her white shoulder, and, recognising him, said: 'What an excellent judge!'

Admiral Ito, who earned his viscountcy for services in the Chino-Japanese war, is very European in his methods. A story is told rather against him when the Japanese landed a force after the battle of the Yalu. Shortly after his establishment he was one day annoyed by the receipt of a telegram from a subordinate whom he had allowed off on furlough, which read: 'Will not report to-day as expected on account of unavoidable circumstances.' The tone of the message was not at all to Admiral Ito's mind, and he wired at once in reply, 'Report as expected, or give reasons.' Within an hour the following message came over the wires from a hospital in Yokosuka: 'Train oh—can't ride. Legs off—can't walk. Will not report unless you insist.' The admiral did not insist.

Mr. Justin McCarthy received many congratulations on his 71th birthday. Fifty-two years ago he was associated in Liverpool with the birth of the 'Northern Daily Times,' the first daily paper published in the provinces. Mr. McCarthy was one of the three reporters sent to London to report Mr. Gladstone's great Budget speech in the fifties. The genial Irishman's greatest achievement, perhaps, is that he passed through the most stormy period of Irish political history in the last century without making an enemy. The opponent of Parnell's leadership and Parnell's successor in the chair, the two remained personal friends to the last. If Mr. McCarthy were less true to Ireland he would be a wealthier man to-day, but not higher in the good opinion of his countrymen.