

they got an old Liberal made into a Tory by 15 or 16 years' communication with the real article that was the most pestilential thing in Irish politics. That was exactly what this learned gentleman was. As one representing a purely agricultural constituency he protested against such a general exorcising of the Land Acts.

Not Coercion but Statesmanship.

In a remarkably powerful letter which he has addressed to the 'Times,' Mr. T. W. Russell contends that it is not coercion that is required in Ireland, but statesmanship. And anyone who reads his arguments must acknowledge that they are lucid and cogent. At the present moment, when it is proposed to revive the Coercion Act of 1887 and to proclaim the United Irish League, the whole country is crimeless. Crime of an ordinary character is entirely absent, and agrarian crime has all but disappeared. Boycotting certainly prevails in the West, but the trouble has been brought about chiefly by an impolitic act on the part of the Government. The Congested Districts Board bought the Dillon estate and created 'a new heaven and a new earth' for the tenants by re-selling it to them. The tenants of the neighboring properties ask in vain for these privileges, and the outcome of the refusal is a strike for the same terms. As a matter of fact, there is no such thing as economic rent on any of these western properties. There is not even subsistence. The rent is paid by children in New York and Chicago, and by labour in Great Britain. Their conditions of life, Mr. Russell emphatically declares, would take all spirit out of saints and would breed anarchy were it not for the controlling influence of that Catholic Church which those who are now hounding on the Government hate so cordially; and he calls upon the Government to go forward not with a policy of conquest and ascendancy, but with a policy of reconciliation and equality belittling the twentieth century.

Lord Spencer on Home Rule.

Lord Spencer, in his recent speech at Eastbourne, proclaimed himself the consistent and unchangeable Home Ruler he has long been known to be. Notwithstanding the fact that the meeting of the Home Counties Liberal Federation, at which he spoke, was presided over by Mr. Freeman Thomas, M.P., one of the secretaries of the Liberal League, Lord Spencer said that he had been co-operating with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and will continue to do so long as Sir Henry was the Liberal leader in the House of Commons. They had heard that Home Rule was to be given up by the Liberal Party. He could not agree to that. If the Liberal Party gave up Home Rule he must take a back seat. He had not altered, and would not alter, the views he held on this question.

Parliamentary Fund.

The United Irish League in the United States has contributed £1000 to the Irish Parliamentary Fund.

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People

Miss Amy Castles has two younger sisters who have really good voices; also a young brother, George Castles, who possesses a splendid tenor voice, and has great dramatic abilities. The whole family are intensely musical.

Mr. Frank Hugh O'Donnell lives in a flat in the West Central District of London. He devotes himself principally to literature. His remarkable poem recently published, 'The Messengers of the Masters,' created a great sensation. He is at present engaged on a 'Life of Wolfe Tone.'

Princess Radziwill, who has just been committed for trial on a charge of forging Cecil Rhodes's name, is editor of the Capetown weekly, 'Greater Britain.' She was born in 1858, her father being Count Adam Rzewnski, a Russian general. In 1873 she married Prince W. Radziwill. She is a very 'advanced' woman, and besides her journalistic exploits has been guilty of three French novels.

Lieutenant-General Paul, Lord Methuen, whose capture by the Boers was recently reported, has his family seat at Corsiam, in Wiltshire. The house is very beautifully situated in a most interesting part of Wiltshire. His Lordship's patronymic should be pronounced 'Meth-ven,' or still more sharply 'Mevven,' and not 'Meth-yoo-en' or 'Meth-on-en' as it commonly is.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's Catholic Premier, who is reported to have been offered a Coronation peerage, and even to have selected the title of Lord Athabasca, after the locality of his birth, has been Premier of Canada since 1896, and was the first French-Canadian to hold that post, in which he succeeded Sir C. Tupper.

A few weeks ago a deputation of French nuns were admitted to an audience with Leo XIII. Overjoyed at being able to offer in person their congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his pontificate, the Rev. Mother Superioress in charge of the deputation said: 'Holy Father, we have been praying daily that you should reach the age of a hundred.' 'A hundred!' rejoined Leo XIII., 'now, why should you set a limit for Divine Providence?'

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, one of the ablest of the many able Irish politicians who helped to make Australian history in the early days, was 86 years old on April 12. He was a Minister of the Crown in Victoria nearly 50 years ago; and afterwards filled the position of Premier and Speaker. He draws a pension of £1000 a year from that State.

The editor of one of the great dailies of New York conceived the modest idea of writing to the Queen-Regent of Spain, asking her to induce the young King Alfonso to send a short column of 'copy,' dealing with the causes and effects of the recent troubles at Barcelona. Accompanying the letter was a cheque for \$10,000. The request was not entertained.

The marriage of Lady Annabel Crewe-Milnes to Lord O'Neill, of Shanes Castle, revives a curiously romantic story with reference to the O'Neill family. The O'Neills, of Shanes Castle, or Eden-Duff-Carrick, to give it its more idiomatic name (says the London correspondent of the 'Manchester Guardian') were among the historic chiefs of Ireland. John O'Neill, who died in 1739, disinherited his eldest son Henry and left Shanes Castle to his second son Charles. The descendants of Charles became Earls O'Neill, and the last of them died intestate in 1855. The estates then devolved on the heir-at-

law, the Rev. William Chichester, a clergyman in Dublin, who was a descendant of the only daughter of the disinherited Henry. Thus the malevolent intentions of the implacable John were frustrated by fate, and his eldest son's descendants possess their hereditary estates. Mr. Chichester assumed his great grandmother's name of O'Neill in 1868. Bishop Wilberforce wrote this in his diary when staying at Shanes Castle:—'A very fine place is the very least that could be said of Shanes. There is an estate of 65,000 acres in a ring fence, and the demesne lies gloriously along the shores of Lough Neagh—an inland sea which puts its Cumbrian competitors to shame. A curious feature of the O'Neills' territory is that there the population is Celtic and Catholic, in the very heart of Ulster, and the prevalence of the name O'Neill among the laboring classes is a memorial of the time when Ireland as well as Scotland boasted chiefs and clans and feudal allegiances.'

According to the recently-issued census returns (says the 'Lancet') there are 169 male and six female foreign physicians, surgeons, and general practitioners located in London. Of these there are nine male and one female Russian; one male Russian Pole; seven male, three female Swedes; two male Norwegians; three male Danes; four male Dutch; one male Belgian; 12 male French; 32 male, one female Germans; three male Austrians; eight male Swiss; three male Spaniards; one male Portuguese; 12 male and one female Italians, two male Greeks; three male Turks; two male Japanese; one male Asiatic; and 63 male Americans.

The death occurred at Guildford early in March of Lieutenant-General John Patrick Redmond, C.B. He was the eldest son of the late Patrick Walter Redmond, of Robinstown House, County Wexford, and Pembroke House, Dublin; also brother of the late W. A. Redmond, M.P. for Wexford, and Mayor Walter Redmond, and uncle of Mr. John Redmond and Mr. William Redmond, M.P.'s. Deceased saw lengthy and distinguished service in India, going right through the Punjab campaign and Indian mutiny, being seriously wounded during the attack of Sepoys on a magazine at Seropore. He received several decorations.

A most extraordinary event will occur on April 1 (says a London correspondent). The Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, will practically become, although a Catholic, master of Westminster Abbey. All the customary officials are to be given a holiday, and the Duke will be in a position to exclude worshippers. The services will be discontinued, and the choir granted leave of absence till the end of the month, when rehearsals will begin for the Coronation ceremonial in the adjacent church of St. Margaret. The whole matter is made the more strange because the Duke of Norfolk is a very rigid Catholic, and some years ago successfully established his title to be declared owner of the chancel of the parish church of Arundel, the consequence being that the Catholic service is conducted in the chancel, while on the other side of the brick wall the Church of England service is held in the same edifice, or at all events under the same roof.

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