

was collecting a large consignment for a group of Italian officers said that he met with no competitor on the part of the British army. He was in a position, as were the Germans, to give up to £70 for a good five-year-old. It is quite rare for our army buyers to give more than £40, though now and again lately they have given as much as £50, and there is some disposition to pay rather more attention to excellence than cheapness.

SOME PLAIN TALK BY MR. BIRRELL.

Addressing a meeting of his constituents at Bristol the other day, Mr. Birrell said that there was only one obstacle in the way of Home Rule. The bill would go through to-morrow, within six weeks, without opposition, without fury, without loss of temper, without even oratory. The obstacle was a belief, no doubt genuine, in the minds of the Protestants of Ulster, that somehow or other, with a domestic Parliament, they in their religion would be oppressed and that they would be subjected to spoliation of their property. The Parliament in Dublin would be a subordinate Parliament. 'Its measures will have to receive the sanction of the Crown. If it attempts to do anything outside its powers a court of justice will declare those laws of no avail, and, secondly, it is not within the power—although it is almost an insult to the great majority of the people of Ireland to assume that they wish to do anything of the kind—it is not within their power to do anything of the kind. Suppose these securities were to be of no avail, and that this wicked, monstrous Parliament in Ireland set itself to oppress the Protestants and penalised them in their religion, attempted to differentiate between Catholics and Protestants in the matter of taxation—to levy taxes on Ulster which they were not levying on Leinster or Munster, why Ulster need not rebel—we would rebel for her! The whole force of the Empire would be behind Ulster, and there would be no occasion for gentlemen of the Bar to take arms.—(Laughter.) What these people are frightened of is not their civil or religious liberty. They don't like the notion of the Executive and the administration of the country passing into the hands of the great majority of their fellow-countrymen. They have come to regard themselves as a superior race, like the Brahmans in India. I am confident that when the thing is accomplished, as obviously it is going to be, they will throw in their lot, at all events, it is my belief, and if I did not believe that there will be no oppression and no spoliation, I for one would have nothing to do with it. If Home Rule is abandoned, what is to happen? You must end the farce of having in Parliament Irish representatives, eighty out of a hundred of whom clamor for nothing else but Home Rule, and who in the event of its refusal become nothing but obstructionists. The Irish representatives have had a singular influence upon the House of Commons. It is they who are responsible for the existence of the closure and the guillotine. I am not sure that they have not had something to do with restricting the power of the House of Lords. Reject Home Rule, and you must revert to the government of Ireland by coercion. But that is not what the Tories would do, God bless you; they would try bribery out of the British coffers full to overflowing as the result of Tariff Reform. They will hand over two or three millions to Ireland for drainage and railways and social reform, but the English taxpayer would not stand this, and the position we would find ourselves in passes one's imagination. Home Rule is the honorable, the thrice honorable, way out. It is the path that has succeeded all over the world, even in South Africa, and it is the path that will bring peace to Ireland.'

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People We Hear About

Mr. Martin Kennedy, K.S.G., of Wellington, has been elected chairman of the Bank of New Zealand.

Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., during his stay in Washington, was invited to the White House, and was received by the President of the United States. He was introduced by Chief Justice Mr. White, who is a Catholic.

Sheehan Bey, who, in his college days in Waterford, was known as Bob Sheehan, has died suddenly at Port Said, Egypt. He took part in the Gordon Relief Expedition in the 'eighties, and was severely wounded at Abu Klea, a bullet having passed through his body in the region of the heart. After the fall of Khartoum he left the English service, and joined that of the Khedive. One of his brothers, the Rev. Dr. Sheehan, is Professor of Classics in Maynooth College.

The death of Countess Murphy, which took place on February 10 at her residence, Clifton, Montenotta, Cork, has caused much regret. She was a member of the old family of the Leahys, of Shanakiel. In 1869 she married Mr. John Nicholas Murphy, author of *Terra Incognita* and *The Chair of Peter*. There was but one child of the marriage, a daughter, who married Mr. Coltsman Cronin, of the well-known Kerry family of that name. The churches and charities of Cork owe much to her munificence.

Mrs. Josephine Ward, the English novelist, is the wife of Mr. Wilfrid Ward, the distinguished editor of the *Dublin Review*. She is the daughter of the late Mr. James Robert Hope-Scott, of Abbotsford, by his second marriage with the Lady Victoria Howard, eldest sister of the present Duke of Norfolk. Mrs. Ward's sisters are the Hon. Mrs. Maxwell-Scott, of Abbotsford, and Lady O'Connor, wife of the late British ambassador to Turkey. Mrs. Ward is an original, vigorous writer, and takes rank with the best authors of contemporary fiction.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who has just returned to London from Egypt, in an interview, paid a high tribute to Lord Kitchener's administration there, and emphasised the present tranquil condition of the country. Lord Kitchener, he said, had already established good relations, not only with European, but with native, opinion. Mr. O'Connor mentioned the interesting fact that he saw a letter from Lord Kitchener announcing that he would be present at a St. Patrick's Day banquet 'as an Irishman.' Mr. O'Connor said that he found countrymen of his own in very high positions in Egypt. Mr. McLaughlin, for instance, a County Mayo man, is manager of one of the chief banks. Dr. Keating, a member of a well-known Dublin family, the head of the Medical School, Mr. Plunket, formerly Lord Kitchener's confidential non-com., the head of a large drapery establishment.

Lord Dunraven has just celebrated his 71st birthday. His lordship's career has been as varied as almost anyone could wish. The descendant of a third century Irish king, Lord Dunraven has been soldier, author, politician, yachtsman, war correspondent, big-game hunter, and picture collector. Interested in all things Irish, the Earl was one of the few large landowners in the Emerald Isle who welcomed the idea of the Irish Land Conference. He has, indeed, had his share of conferences, for when he has not been sitting on one he has been spending laborious days on Select Committees, or looking into some grievance which, perchance, needed a Royal Commission. Lord Salisbury used to speak with some fondness of his 'robust common sense.' Celtic to the core, there are few men better able to speak on the rights or wrongs of his country than he, and his relations with tenantry have been remarkably free from friction or strife. His favorite house is Adare Manor, Limerick, where he has had golf links laid out. This residence has been in the possession of the family of Quin for centuries, and it is beautifully situated.

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