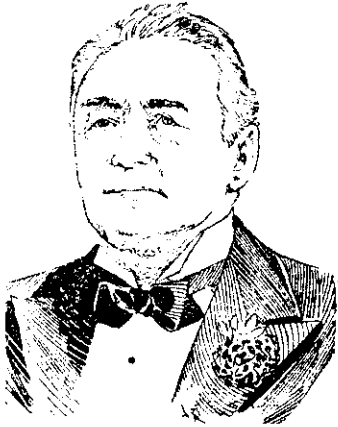


People Talked About



THE LATE MR RICHARD STEWART.

An old-time theatrical manager, and father of the famous actress Miss Nellie Stewart, who is about to visit New Zealand. His death took place in Melbourne recently.

Two Stories of Mr Chamberlain.

Seeing that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has the reputation of never walking a yard if he can find the means of driving, it is scarcely surprising that he should, for once, have met with a cab accident. The Colonial Secretary, who recently celebrated the sixty-sixth anniversary of his birth, is, of course, the subject of many amusing stories. It is related that he was one day engaged in conversation with a friend in a well-known London hotel, when a young man approached him.

"May I speak with you a moment, Mr. Chamberlain?" he asked.

"Certainly," was the ready reply, as the politician rose from his seat.

"I cannot say it here," said the young man, glancing nervously round.

Mr. Chamberlain looked sharply at him and then, his severity softening into pity for the man's simplicity, said, "Follow me!"

Safely arrived in a dark and curtained corner of the hotel, the Colonial Secretary asked what his interviewer wanted.

"I am on the staff of the — newspaper!" was the reply. "Can you tell me what you think of the South African situation?"

After a hurried glance round to make sure there were no eavesdroppers Mr Chamberlain whispered into the young man's ear: "My friend, I really don't know anything about it."

From his boyhood upwards, whether in pastimes or in politics, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has never willingly submitted to defeat.

A story is told that he was playing with his sister once at a game of battles, each having a regiment of toy soldiers and a popgun. The gallant Joseph won easily. But he won without honours, for his sister found that he had glued his men to the floor!

The Prince and Ireland.

The statement that the King has requested the Prince of Wales to reside in Ireland for a portion of each year is regarded with great interest in Dublin, where the matter is being much discussed. The business people of Dublin are exceedingly desirous that such a development would take place, as they recognise what an impetus it would give to the trade of the city. Besides, it is believed

that the residence of the Prince and Princess of Wales in Ireland at certain periods of the year would probably mean an annual visit of the King and Queen. There is a section of Nationalists whose voices would likely be raised in protest, but there is little doubt that the great majority of Irishmen, irrespective of creed and class, would cordially welcome the suggested Royal residence in Ireland.

Alfred's Ode.

The Poet Laureate wrote a Coronation ode, which by curious chance found its way into the columns of a New York paper, notwithstanding the postponement of the ceremony. Mr Alfred Austin is now wondering, with Mr Vincent Crummies, who puts

these things into the papers. And his wonderment is not mitigated by American criticisms on the ode. Says one paper: "What a pity that Alfred Austin's ode could not have been postponed with the Coronation!" Another responds in this kindly manner: "Why not speak a good word for Alfred Austin? His Coronation ode contains nothing that could bring the faintest blush to the cheek of modesty." A third observes: "We hope that Edward VII. will recover. Mr Austin's verses will never get any better."

A Story of Rhodes.

Professor Hubert Herkomer, in opening a free picture exhibition in London recently, delivered an amusing speech on the painting of por-

traits. "Has it ever occurred to you," the distinguished artist said, "what an awful thing a bad portrait is? It is worse than a white elephant, because nobody wishes to keep it, and it can't be given away, because nobody else will have it. I knew a man who had three portraits painted. Two were failures, and the third was a success. (Needless to say, I painted the success.) The subject of the three portraits spent a large sum of money to obtain possession of the two unsuccessful pictures, which had in the meantime both been presented to public galleries. When he got them he burned them both. The third portrait was in great danger during the siege of Kimberley, but it was not destroyed, and is in Kimberley now. The portrait to which I refer," the speaker concluded, "is that of the late Mr Cecil Rhodes."



VISCOUNTESS HAYASHI, wife of the Japanese Minister at the Court of St. James.

The position of Baron Tadous Hayashi, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of Japan at the Court of St. James' since 1900, has greatly increased in importance since the recent alliance between Great Britain and Japan. The Baron, who was enabled for his distinguished services at the Japanese Foreign Office during

the war with China, is now over fifty years of age. He came to England to study in 1866, and while still a young man began his official career in his own country. He was first Governor of the Province of Kobe, but was afterwards transferred to the Foreign Office, and after the Chinese war assisted in the negotiations for peace, as Envoy Extraordin-

ary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China. Later he was sent as Minister to St. Petersburg, and in 1899 was appointed to succeed Mr Kato as Ambassador in London. In 1899 he served as Japan's chief delegate to the Hague peace Conference. We give on this page a picture of his wife, who is a most charming and popular woman.