

previously having had a day's illness. A short period before his death he informed his relatives he had only half an hour to live.

GENERAL

The Root of the Trouble

Addressing his constituents in Bristol on October 23, Mr. Birrell said, despite the criticisms of the House of Lords, he believed Ireland, but for agrarian troubles, would be the most crimeless country in Europe. He would not put the Crimes Act into force unless inevitable, and his judgment was that it was not now inevitable or necessary.

Irish Industries

The important step taken by Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., as Vice-President of the Department, with a view to promoting the establishment of industries in Ireland as the outcome of the new Patent Law—namely, the appointment of a Commission, which will proceed at once to Germany for the purpose of making inquiries into the effect on the industries of that country of the Patents Act, and the extent to which advantage can be taken of the new legislation for the benefit of Ireland—has the following as a sequel. The Commission will consist of Mr. Horner, of the Belfast Industrial Development Association; Mr. E. J. Riordan, secretary of the Cork Industrial Development Association; together with one of the assistant secretaries of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

The Christian Brothers' Schools

The *Irish Times*, which for years has been the leading Tory paper of Ireland, compliments highly the Irish Christian Brothers for the success of their pupils in the Intermediate Examinations this year. The Catholic schools in Ireland are always ahead in the Intermediate Examinations, and for this reason, among others, many Irish Protestants send their children to Catholic schools. In many Irish communities Protestant boys sit side by side with Catholic boys in the Christian Brothers' schools, and needless to say no attempt is made to tamper with their religious beliefs.

American Factories

In the course of a letter to Mr. Joseph McCarroll, of Wicklow, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., says:—'When I was in America I found that widespread interest was taken in the new Patents Law. I had the opportunity of meeting many of the manufacturing and commercial class, especially in Boston, New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, and they all realised that in consequence of the new law it will be necessary for them to start factories in some part of Great Britain or Ireland. I urged most strongly upon them that a preference should be given to Ireland. Doing this would entail no loss upon them, but, on the contrary, owing to cheap labor, good water power, and other advantages, they would gain by starting their factories in this country rather than in Great Britain. The suggestions I made were received most sympathetically, and I have no doubt that some of the American manufacturers will, before long, take steps to start factories in this country. I see that England is taking steps to induce the building of factories in England by sending a deputation to America to interview the manufacturers there. I hope that those who are specially engaged in the effort to resuscitate Irish industries will take what steps they think best to follow up the suggestions which I made to American manufacturers during my recent trip.'

The New Land Bill

A few weeks ago we were informed that Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, had introduced in the House of Commons a new Land Purchase Bill. On that occasion he stated that the sales already completed under the Land Purchase Act totalled £25,000,000, while agreements were pending for an additional £52,000,000. Instead of £100,000,000 contemplated by Mr. Wyndham in 1903, £180,000,000 was needed. Amid Nationalist cheers the Irish Secretary announced that he intended to relieve the Irish ratepayers of their prospective losses of half a million yearly. Referring to the issues of stock, he intended to issue 3 per cents., to increase intending tenants' annual interest on advances made, to reduce the bonus to 3 per cent., to increase the present limit to £12,000,000, and to graduate the bonus in order to assist the poorer landlord to sell. Last week the measure was read a second time after a hostile amendment by Mr. Wyndham had been rejected by 233 votes to 62. The second reading was supported by Mr. Redmond, whilst Mr. W. O'Brien voted against it.

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People We Hear About

Mr. Joseph I. C. Clarke, the author of 'Kelly and Burke and Shea,' is a journalist and poet, and a prominent Irish-American, so prominent that two years ago he was president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a society which includes the most eminent Irish-Americans of every creed.

M. Paul Bourget, the novelist, once described the late Cardinal Mathieu as 'a very holy and a very good man with the large bronze face of a peasant, the gaiety of a child, the erudition of a profound savant, and the simplicity of a true apostle.'

Father Robert Hugh Benson, M.A., is the fourth son of the anglican Archbishop Benson of Canterbury. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree, and he held several Anglican curacies in East London, etc. In 1903 he was received into the Church at Woodchester Priory, and was ordained in Rome in the following year. Father Benson is a distinguished litterateur, and has written several works which have had a large circulation. He is at present stationed in Cambridge.

The late Dr. Watson, better known under his pen-name of Ian Maclaren, had much sympathy with Catholics and things Catholic. That he should have had this sympathy will surprise nobody who reads the biography just published by Dr. Robertson Nicoll. Dr. Nicoll states that his ancestry on the mother's side was Catholic, his grand-uncle being a well-known and influential Catholic priest in the Highlands. He also states that some of Dr. Watson's closest and most appreciated friends were Catholic priests.

The Empress Eugenie was recently asked by the Glasgow Dumfriesshire Society, in view of the fact that her mother was one of the Kirkpatricks of Closeburn, in Scotland, to allow her name to be enrolled among its patrons. She has now replied, through her secretary, M. Pietri, that she 'regrets that, as she has for a long time past declined to allow her name to appear on any public list of associations or of patronage, she is unable to depart in this case from the rule which she has imposed upon herself. But, being desirous to prove to you the interest which she takes in your society—a society to which she is united by the most ancient family ties—she commissions me to send you the cheque (for £5) which you will find enclosed.'

Lord Braye, who, our Home exchanges state, is to bring forward in the House of Lords the question of the revision of the Accession Oath, is a convert to the Catholic Faith, having been received in 1870. He is only the fifth holder of a peerage created by Henry VIII. so long ago as 1529. On the death of the second Lord Braye—he was master of the ordnance in Mary's reign, and died of his wounds in battle in 1557—his estates devolved on his three sisters, and the Barony of Braye fell into abeyance until 1839. In 1862 the barony again fell into abeyance, until in 1879 it was determined by the title devolving on the mother of the present peer.

The celebration of the silver jubilee of the marriage of Sir Joseph and Lady Ward and the marriage of their son, Mr. Cyril Ward, on the same date, remind us that the Right Hon. the Premier of this Dominion is now in his 51st year, having been born in Victoria in 1857. He came to New Zealand at a very early age with his parents, and after the usual school course set out to make his way in the world. Before he reached the age of twenty-one he had started in business on his own account. Then he began to take an interest in local affairs, from which he passed on to national politics, entering the House of Representatives in 1887. Later on he became a Minister in Mr. Seddon's Cabinet, since which time his public career is well known.

Miss Louise Imogen Guiney, a convert to the Catholic Faith and the only child of General Guiney, may now (says the *Westminster Gazette*) be regarded as America's greatest woman poet. She has been a resident of Oxford for the last seven years. 'Songs of the Start,' Miss Guiney's first book, was issued a quarter of a century ago, and nearly a dozen volumes were published in the United States. Besides original and editorial work—including monographs on Robert Emmet and Hurrell Froude, and selected poems of J. C. Mangan, Matthew Arnold, and others—Miss Guiney has since 1901 been pursuing her study of English poetry of the seventeenth century, and particularly in connection with the definite edition of the poems of Henry Vaughan, which she has for long had in preparation. Miss Guiney was born at Boston, U.S.A., in 1861.