

AN HONEST ADMISSION.

Noticing the tobacco-growing industry and how it fared under British law, the London *Times* in its 'Irish Number' says:—'Ireland was almost the first country in Europe in which tobacco was grown, it having been brought over, along with the potato, by Sir Walter Raleigh and planted in his garden at Myrtle Lodge in Youghal, County Cork. Until 1660 it was grown in increasingly large quantities in Ireland until it was suppressed by an Act of Charles II. on the ground that—"the colonies and plantations of this kingdom in America should be defended, protected, and maintained and kept up and all due and possible encouragement be given to them." And so for the benefit of British planters in America an important Irish industry was crushed by a British Act of Parliament. Observing on further legislation of the same kind, the *Times* writer goes on to say:—"It is not possible here to rehearse again the story so discreditable to England of the sacrifice of Ireland's industries to the interests of the British traders. Tobacco culture in Ireland was extinguished in 1660, partially revived in 1779, only when it had laboriously once more established itself, to be again deliberately annihilated to disappear for over a century. Here and there throughout Ireland are still found fields that have retained the name of "the tobacco field," but all knowledge of the industry had vanished at the time when Sir Nugent Everard in 1898 drew public attention to experiments on tobacco-growing on his own land in County Meath.'

IRELAND'S FISHING.

Writing on the 'Variety and Importance' of Ireland's sea fishing resources, the London *Times* in its recent 'Irish Number' says:—"The fisheries of the Irish seas were probably worked in 500 B.C. or earlier by the large craft of the Phoenicians. After them fishing fleets continued to come from the Iberian Peninsula up to the middle of the sixteenth century, when Spaniards had permanent fishing stations on the coast. All round the South-west of Ireland are islands and bays still called "Spanish," and there are Spanish methods in building boats.' As to the commercial value of those Irish fisheries, the writer notes that: 'Fish commanded a good market on the Mediterranean coasts from the earliest times. The seas of Spain and Portugal were inconveniently deep; the run to the Irish coast and back was easy, so the fishing grounds off Ireland were for the ancient world what the Banks of Newfoundland have become for us. Scandinavia, Holland, Flanders, and Brittany at various times attached great importance to the fishing in Irish waters, and in later years were ready to pay the British Government for this privilege.'

Nails that are inclined to brittleness should be treated daily with a little pure white vaseline. The vaseline should be rubbed over and into the nails; and also worked into the under-part of the nail just above the finger-tip.

FOUND AT LAST.

This man in Australia certainly has found a reliable cough cure. He writes:—"I had to pay 1/8 Customs duty before I could get it, so that the bottle cost me 3/6. If it cost a pound a bottle I would take good care not to be without it. Why don't you advertise it in Australia? Baxter's Lung Preserver would beat all the cough remedies sold here.'

Every day we are receiving many letters just as enthusiastic as this. There is no doubt that Baxter's Lung Preserver is the finest cough remedy in New Zealand to-day.

It cures by building up the system generally, and helps Nature to throw off the cold. If the lungs are diseased Baxter's Lung Preserver makes new tissues, and so strengthens them that you can go through the severest winter without a cold.

Get a bottle to-day and keep it ready at home. It costs only 1/10 at all stores and chemists.

People We Hear About

The Duke and Duchess of Norfolk were among those who attended the Eucharistic Congress at Malta.

Amongst those who occupied seats in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery during Mr. Lloyd George's Budget speech were the Very Rev. David Fleming and Mr. Martin Kennedy. They were introduced by Mr. Pat O'Brien, M.P.

The engagement of King Manoel to Princess Augusta Victoria of Hohenzollern is announced, and the marriage is likely to take place in the near future. The bride-elect, the only daughter of Prince William, the head of the non-reigning line of Hohenzollern, was born at Potsdam on August 19, 1890, and is thus nine months younger than the bridegroom. King Manoel is second cousin to his future bride through her paternal grandmother, the Princess Antonia, who was the daughter of Queen Maria da Gloria of Portugal, and so the aunt of King Carlos, the father of the bridegroom.

The death occurred on April 18 at Antibes, in the South of Europe, of Dr. Agnes McLaren, one of the first women doctors to qualify in the United Kingdom. The daughter of the late Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P. for Edinburgh, Dr. Agnes McLaren became a Catholic, and in her later years devoted her leisure and energy assiduously to philanthropic work. She was one of the honorary secretaries of the Catholic Medical Mission to the Women and Children of India; she was an active member of the International Federation for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice; and also Honorary President of the Edinburgh Women's Suffrage Society.

In the current number of the Waterford and South-East of Ireland *Archaeological Journal* there is a letter from Don Rafael Merry del Val contradicting a statement made in a previous issue of the *Journal* that 'Cardinal Merry del Val was entrusted in his youth to the care of his kinsman Captain Merry, then residing in London.' Don Rafael Merry del Val writes: 'I wish to say that I deny this statement emphatically and entirely, as my son, Cardinal Merry del Val, was never under any other care than that of his parents, and he never saw Captain Merry. The Cardinal never left his home until, when he was eighteen years old, he went to St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw, where he remained two years before going to Rome.'

King George, by calling the very ancient Barony of Furnival out of abeyance in favor of the Hon. Mary Frances Petre, the twelve-year-old daughter of Audrey Lady Petre, has added yet another to the not inconsiderable number of Catholic ladies who at present hold peerages in their own right. These include the Duchess of Norfolk, in her own right Baroness Herries (though that dignity is at present merged in the dignity of premier Duchess of England); Mona Baroness Beaumont, Ada Baroness Wentworth and now the youthful Baroness Furnival, who ranks before all the others, that barony having been created as long ago as the year 1295, in the reign of Richard I. The male line of the Furnivals became extinct in 1383, and the barony thereafter passed through the families of Nevill, Talbot, and Howard, falling at length into abeyance on the death of Edward, ninth Duke of Norfolk (in 1777), between his daughters, Winifrede Lady Stourton and Anne Lady Petre. It is from the latter of these two ladies that the present Lady Furnival descends, Lord Mowbray and Stourton (the senior co-heir) having stood aside in favor of his young kinswoman, the only child and heiress of the fourteenth Lord Petre. It is, by the way, of some interest to Scotsmen that Lady Furnival is entitled, as heir of line of the old Dukes of Norfolk, to bear on her coat of arms the special augmentation—the demi-lion of Scotland on a bend—which was granted to the Earl of Surrey (afterwards second Duke of Norfolk) for his victory at Flodden, just four hundred years ago, over the Scotch, whose King, James IV., fell on that fatal field.