

THE WILL OF THE EARL OF CRAWFORD.

PROBATE has now been granted of the will of the twenty-sixth Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, Baron Lindsay and Baron Balniel and Baron Wigan, K.T., V.D., LL.D., F.R.A.S., F.R.S., V.P.S.A., of Haigh Hall, Wigan, and of Balcarres House, Colinsburgh, Fife, and of 2 Cavendish Square, W., Premier Earl of Scotland, hon. colonel of the Grenadier Guards and the Manchester Regiment, chairman of the Wigan Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., and of the Birmingham Aluminium Casting (1903) Co., Ltd., a director of the London Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., and Great Steward of Scotland at the Coronations of King Edward VII and King George V.

Lord Crawford left unsettled property of the gross value of £436,279, of which the net personalty has been sworn at £321,509. The duties on the property at this valuation will amount to about £56,000. Testator stated that, with the exception of the Haigh Estate at Wigan and a very large number of shares in the Wigan Coal and Iron Co., which are entailed upon his eldest son, all of his possessions were in his free disposal, but he had no desire in any way to hamper or tie up the property, his desire being that the son who should succeed him in "the honours of Crawford" should also be his heir in whatever he might leave behind, so that he might be able properly to maintain the dignity of his peerage.

A number of other bequests relating to personal bequests are contained in the will (for the details of which we are indebted to the *Daily Telegraph*), but Lord Crawford's carefully thought-out bequests as regards his philatelic library will be regarded with a wide and respected interest by all philatelists. The following sentences referring to this are obviously in the late Lord Crawford's own words (the will being throughout in his own writing) and have a pathetic interest to us all :—

"During the last few years I have given much attention to the formation of a collection of books and papers dealing with or treating on Philately, and as I consider this collection of philatelic literature to be the most complete in the world, I am anxious that it should remain intact, and that it shall be of the greatest use for reference.

"I have learnt from my son, Lord Balcarres, that this subject has little or no interest to him in so far as the general library is concerned. It is, therefore, my intention to present this collection shortly to the Trustees of the British Museum, but retaining the use and custody of the same during my lifetime, thus insuring the keeping up and growth of the collection to the latest date.

"These books are kept in my house, 2 Cavendish Square, and can easily be identified by means of the special catalogue compiled by my friend Mr. E. D. Bacon, and printed as one of the volumes of the general catalogue of the Bibliotheca Lindesiana, being known as the Philatelic Section thereof.

"Should this my intention not have been carried out before my death, I now formally bequeath the collection to the Trustees of the British Museum.

"It is, however, to be clearly understood that this bequest to the nation does not include any postage stamps or volumes or collections of postage stamps of any parts of the world that I have formed."