

any man that culture is sometimes a curse instead of a blessing. With a young woman who seeks an education as a preparation for a social status already assured, or to fit her to become a bread-winner, we have entire sympathy; but many a bright girl finds the world a dull place simply because she has been educated above her family; and, if so be, her husband. Genuine culture, it is true, is its own exceeding great reward; but culture is dearly bought at the expense of a happy home. The late Mrs. Oliphant was a woman of rare intellectual power herself, but she used to say that after having a "course" of some very intellectual person she always felt that she would like to have the cook up for a pleasant, homely, genuine chat. Moderate culture of the mind with much culture of the heart seems to be the best recipe for the education of all except professional women and society belles. To others, high culture too often means isolation, the loss of sympathy with their surroundings, and general unhappiness.—*Ave Maria.*

INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

It is understood (says the correspondent of the Sydney *Freeman*) that the contemplated visit of the Archbishop of Melbourne *ad limina* will be made after Easter next. It is customary for bishops to pay a visit to the Eternal City every ten years to give an account of the progress of religion, etc., in their respective dioceses. His Grace was translated from the Bishopric of Galway to the Archbishopric of Melbourne on the 27th September, 1886, arriving in his cathedral city 11th June, 1887. Consequently, it will be about eleven years' stewardship as Metropolitan of the province of Victoria that the Archbishop of Melbourne will give an account of to his Sovereign, Leo XIII., in whose venerable hands also his Grace will place the offerings for two years of Peter's Pence in the diocese over which he rules with so much honour to himself and advantage to his devoted flock. It has been mentioned before and may be repeated here that there is some probability of the Archbishop receiving the highest honour it is in the hands of the Vicar of Our Lord to bestow on "the good and faithful servant"—the Cardinalatial rank. Certainly, the Divine status of the Papacy has never, perhaps, during the nineteen centuries of its glorious existence been so luminously and logically expounded and firmly established to the satisfaction of Catholic and non-Catholic alike as has been done by the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Melbourne. The elevation of his Grace to the ranks of the "Sacred College" would give satisfaction and delight not only to the 144,000 subjects under the immediate jurisdiction of the Archbishop and the Catholic body of the colony generally, but likewise to thousands in every part of Australia, where the weight and influence of his personality and scholarly attainments have spread far and wide.

We have had big fires in Melbourne before (says the correspondent of the Sydney *Freeman*), but nothing like the one which broke out about two o'clock on Sunday morning. At sunset on Saturday night all was safe in the city. At sunrise on Sunday morning half the buildings between Elizabeth and Swanston streets, fronting Flinders-lane and Flinders-street, were blazing fiercely, and before sunset on the same evening the biggest fire that has ever occurred in Australia was suddenly burning itself out, and material wealth to the value of about £1,000,000 had ceased to exist. Happily, there was no loss of life. The fire raged with appalling fury till about 6 a.m., and in that comparatively short space of time the greater part of the block, comprising about four out of five acres of buildings, had been converted into an empty ruin. The devastated block is that which lies between Swanston and Elizabeth streets, facing the Flinders street railway station, and contains the warehouses of some of the leading Melbourne merchants. The fire originated in the warehouse of Messrs. Craig, Williamson and Thomas, in Elizabeth street, which was utterly ruined, with all that it contained. It then swept eastward, spreading north and south, among the tall buildings. The Mutual Store, in Flinders street, escaped with comparatively small damage by fire, but sustained some loss through water. The Port Phillip Club Hotel had a similar experience, though the rear portion of the structure was considerably damaged; and several shops near the mutual store also escaped destruction; but with these exceptions, the warehouses and their stocks were utterly destroyed. Among them were the whole of Messrs. Sargood, Butler, Nichol and Evans warehouse, including the premises lately opened by that firm in Flinders lane, Messrs. L. Stevenson and Sons' warehouse, and other valuable buildings, the fire having made a clean sweep till it stopped at the rear of the Swanston-street frontages. When the flames and smoke cleared away the scene presented was one of ghastly destruction. It is roughly estimated that the loss caused by this great fire in building and stock amounts to a million pounds, and that some 2000 persons will be temporarily thrown out of employment. Ruined walls are liable to fall at any moment, and the city authorities have quarantined a portion of the block against all traffic as a measure of safety. Included in the ruined buildings is the "sky-scraper" known as Fink's, eight stories high, which was one of the monuments of the "Boom." The insurance amount to £700,000. The colonial offices are affected as follows:—Victorian, £77,000; Sydney, £12,000; Queensland, £3300; South Australian, £16,000; New Zealand, £56,000; Tasmanian, £19,000. These items total £183,000. British offices will therefore have to find over £500,000. One hundred and ninety firemen, under Chief-Officer Stein, worked hard, and excellent discipline was maintained. Two auxiliary firemen were, however, locked up on charges or attempted theft. The odd thing is that no watchmen were employed on the block, which is now almost entirely in ruins. Thus, it is said, accounts for the delay in giving the alarm to the fire brigades. The fire must have been burning fiercely some time before the alarm was given, and the question arises how was it that the lookouts did not discover it? Some sensational evidence concerning the first appearance of the fire was obtained on Monday. The matron at the Melbourne Hospital on duty in ward J on Saturday night states that she looked out of the window at one o'clock on Sunday morning

and saw dense volumes of smoke rising from the direction of Flinders-street station. Thinking it would most certainly have been seen by others, and reported, she resumed her duties, and at half-past one she took another nurse to the window and then saw the flames shooting into the air. It will thus be seen that the first smoke was seen at one o'clock, the first flame at 1.30, and that the brigades got the alarm at 20 minutes to two. Mr. Stein is of opinion that the nurses have made a mistake in the time.

The Right Rev. Dr. Gibney, Bishop of Perth, while on his way to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne (says the Adelaide *Southern Cross*), visited the Convent of Mercy, Angus street, with the object of arranging for the foundation of a community of nuns at Kanowna. His efforts were entirely successful, and on his return from the great Melbourne celebration Dr. Gibney was informed that five of the nuns would leave in January next, to open a school in that district. The Rev. Mother will accompany the nuns until all arrangements are complete. A branch of the Sisters of Mercy is already established in Perth. The Sisters in Angus street, however, although originally connected with the mother house at Baginbun, Dublin, came to this colony from South America.

It is understood (says the *Freeman*) that steps will shortly be taken in Melbourne to co-operate with the Sydney '98 centenary committee—a movement which must appeal to every Irishman and every man in whom the sacred spark of nationality glows. The patriotic Irish in Victoria have not yet formulated a programme for the occasion, but there exists a strong feeling in favour of a distinct demonstration in Melbourne, to be concurrent with that in Sydney, and to devote towards the proposed monument to be erected in your city the surplus funds expected to result from the local celebrations. Some leading Irishmen in Melbourne have expressed their intention of being present at the Sydney demonstration of National Irish sentiment.

Science Notes.

NEW USE FOR X-RAYS.

DR. S. MILLINGTON MILLER, of this city (says a New York paper) has received an account from Paris of a successful diagnosis of pleurisy by means of the Röntgen ray. The account says that at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, December 21, Professor Charles Bouchard, of l'Hospitale de la Charite, described his diagnosis of pleurisy by the Röntgen ray.

If the chest (thorax) of a man in good health be placed between a Crookes' tube and a phosphorescent screen, the skeleton of the thorax appears on this screen in the form of a vertical dark band with parallel edges, with less dark oblique bands on each side, which represent the ribs. In addition, on the right side of the vertical column, at about the middle of the dorsal region, there is a shadow, produced by the heart, in which pulsations may be perceived. Lastly, the shadow produced by the liver, which is convex above, rises and sinks in the thoracic cavity, with the respiratory movements. Apart from these shadows, all the rest of the thorax appears in white on both sides. The dividing membrane between the heart and lungs, marked by the vertical column does not show.

In thirty patients suffering from right pleurisy with effusion he found that the side of the thorax occupied by the pleural liquid presented a dark tint in sharp contrast with the light colour of the healthy side, that if the effusion did not fill up the entire cavity, the apex of this side was light, the dark tint answering exactly to the upper limit of the effusion, as determined by percussion and other means of physical examination; that this tint gets darker and darker in proportion as one proceeds from the upper limit, where the effusion is thinnest, toward the lower strata, where it is thicker, the dark tint mixing with that of the liver.

He also ascertained that in these cases of right pleurisy the mediastinum, which is not perceptible under normal conditions, threw a shadow on the left of the vertical column, in the form of a triangle, with the apex upward, the base being continuous with the shadow of the heart, which showed that the mediastinum had been displaced toward the healthy side of the thorax by the pressure of the effusion.

Dr. Bouchard says: "There is very reason to believe that examination by means of the Röntgen rays will be found useful in medicine as in surgery."

These conclusions throw an entirely new light on the possible medical uses of the new ray.

A MONSTER GLOBE.

One of the most remarkable objects at the Paris exhibition of 1900 will be an immense terrestrial globe of 110ft diameter, the interior of which will contain five floors, on which there will be models and representations of the most interesting features of the different countries of the world. Commencing at Paris and ending at Melbourne an electric railway will carry the spectators through the entire world in 80mins. The journey from France to England is supposed to be made under the English Channel, through a tunnel which will be represented by an aqueduct 82ft. long, which will contain five specimens of the principal edible fishes. Four external galleries will allow an inspection to be made of the outside of the sphere, which will be marked with the usual geographical divisions. On the top of the globe will be a turret, surmounted by a figure of France, which, being the world, the extreme height from the ground to the top of the figure being 80ft. The principal materials of construction will be iron and steel, and the estimated cost is £10,000. It is expected, however, from a comparison of the financial returns of the Eiffel Tower, that a sum of £180,000 will be received from admission fees and other sources. This vast work was conceived, and is being carried out by M. Borgel-Court, a well-known watch manufacturer of Geneva, whose versatility is shown by his capability of fabricating the most minute and delicate machinery or constructing one of the grandest works of modern engineering.

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