

INTERCOLONIAL.

The Rev. A. S. Mullan, O.F.M., of Waverley, left for England on the 25th inst.

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney intends to make a personal appeal in the parishes of the archdiocese in aid of the building fund of St. Mary's Cathedral about the beginning of the year.

In the course of an address at Townsville his Lordship Bishop Higgins said that he intended to introduce the Christian Brothers into the diocese of Rockhampton.

Miss Maud McCarthy has been giving concerts in various towns of New South Wales, where she has met with enthusiastic receptions.

The Dickson Government in Queensland has resigned. There is some probability of a coalition Opposition-Labour Ministry under Mr. Dawson being formed.

The many friends of Mr. William Comans of Temora (says the *Catholic Press*) will receive with regret the intelligence of his death, which occurred recently. The deceased gentleman was 88 years of age at the time of his death, which, though rather sudden, was not altogether unexpected, as his end from senile decay was expected for some time. Mr. Comans was a native of Tipperary, Ireland, and came to New South Wales 56 years ago.

Mr. Coghlan has decided to retire from the New South Wales Public Service Board, and retain the position of Government Statistician. This decision can be regarded with great satisfaction, as although the qualifications for a member of the Public Service Board are fairly high, a vacancy there has a better chance of being suitably refilled than if the colony called for a statistician. The resignation of Mr. Coghlan from the Statistician's office would have been a great loss.

By the death, on the 8th inst., of M. Emile Doublet at the age of 57, the French community in Sydney lost one of its oldest and most esteemed members. His remains were interred in the Waverley cemetery, a solemn *Requiem* Mass being first celebrated at St. Patrick's Church by Father Piquet, assisted by the Very Rev. Fathers Aubrey and Le Rennelet, and Father Guillemin. M. Biard d'Aunet (French Consul-General) and all the leading members of the French community attended the funeral.

By the last mail a letter, written in Paris, was received from Miss Amy Castles by her friends in Melbourne. At the time of writing Miss Castles had just returned after having sung before Madame Viardot-Garcia, who enjoys a reputation as one of the greatest present-day female lyric artists. Madame Garcia gave it as her opinion that Miss Castles was the possessor of a wonderful natural voice that would 'stand plenty of hard work.' Among many splendid qualities, the intonation was particularly good, and altogether, Madame Garcia said, the voice was well worthy of the praise that had been lavished upon it.

Last year Mr. Jerry Flynn, a former resident of Gulgong, was employed at Bullagreen station, near Gilgandra, N.S.W., weighing wool. One day during the shearing his waistcoat, containing a gold watch, chain, and appendage, disappeared. The articles were very much valued by Mr. Flynn, as they had been bequeathed to him by his father, who received them as a presentation while he was in the police force. He naturally concluded that the articles had been stolen, and put the matter in the hands of the police, who, however, failed to find the missing property. Quite recently Mr. Jones, the owner of Bullagreen, received a letter from an English wool-manufacturing firm informing him that on opening one of his bales of wool a waistcoat, containing a gold watch, chain, and appendage, had been found therein. This, of course, clears up the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the articles, and they are now on their way back to Australia.

On November 14 his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of Maitland, had the happiness of celebrating the thirty-fourth anniversary of his consecration. Priests and people marked the occasion in the same spirit of rejoicing as when the venerable and beloved Bishop celebrated his silver jubilee. There were not any public presentations of addresses and gifts as on jubilee day, but many tributes of love, gratitude, and veneration were paid. His Lordship, whose almost complete recovery of health and strength is a matter for congratulation, had by his side on the present occasion his young Coadjutor-Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer. Besides Dr. Dwyer, about 30 priests of the diocese took part in the happy celebration. All the Masses in the Cathedral on Tuesday were very largely attended. In the evening at the Town Hall a conversation arranged by the ladies of St. John's Cathedral parish took place, and the venerable prelate was heartily felicitated on the attainment of 34 years' reign as Bishop of Maitland. Bishop Murray is now in his seventy-third year. When he arrived in Maitland in 1866 there were six priests, 20 churches, 12 schools, and one convent in the diocese, extending 160 miles along the coast districts, the remotest part being 800 miles from Maitland. There are now in the present much smaller diocese as regards area (portions having been cut off to form the dioceses of Armidale and Grafton) 60 churches, 24 chapels, one college, 16 high schools, 36 primary schools, one monastery, one orphanage, and an institution for the deaf and dumb at Waratah. The priests number 41; there are 26 convents, with 165 nuns; while 4370 children attended the schools out of a diocesan population of 30,000. The religious Orders Dr. Murray has established in his diocese are the Redemptorist Fathers, the Marist Brothers, Dominican Nuns, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Brigidine Nuns.

Mr. J. F. Arnold will hold a meeting at Woodhaugh Mission Hall on Friday, and at St. Alban's Hall, Kaikorai Valley, on Monday. He will also address the electors at the Garrison Hall on Tuesday evening.—* *

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE following are the principal items of war news received during the week:—

Mafeking was reported to be safe on the 20th inst, but in consequence of the lack of pure water fever was prevalent. The health of the besieged was being affected in consequence of having to live under ground. The Boer entrenchment lines are being drawn closer around the town, and an incessant fire is maintained by the enemy.

A vigorous bombardment of Kimberley has been kept up for some days.

General Methuen, who commands the Kimberley relief column, consisting of a force of 10,000 men, on Thursday attacked the Boers in a strongly-entrenched position at Belmont, defended by five guns. A breach was made, and the British stormed three ridges in succession. The Boers fought with great courage and skill, but the British victory was complete. Forty Boer prisoners were taken, and the enemy's loss was heavy. A large quantity of stores and ammunition was destroyed, and many horses and cows captured. Three British officers were killed and 22 wounded. Fifty-eight privates were killed and 130 wounded. Eighteen men are missing.

Later despatches state that from 6000 to 8000 Boers were engaged at Belmont. The fighting commenced in the semi-darkness. The Boers occupied a very strong position and fought from behind boulders. In making the attack the British had to climb rocky ridges in the face of the enemy's heavy fire. The Boers made a very determined stand and fought until the last.

The position, which was about 10 miles east of Belmont, and commanded the road to Kimberley, was a very strong one and considered almost impregnable, especially the last ridge, which necessitated a steep climb of 500 feet.

A Capetown message, under date November 27, reports that the Boers at Draspan, a little to the north of Belmont, attacked General Methuen, who replied with shrapnel. The Naval Brigade, Yorkshires, and North Lancashires carried the heights after four hours' furious fighting. The enemy early in the fight attacked the rear guard and baggage train, but the Grenadier Guards met this, and also protected the flanks. It is known that 51 Boers were killed and 48 wounded. Many prisoners were taken.

Four hundred Cape Dutch, including the magistrate, at Barkly East, have joined the Boers. They have seized and occupied the town of Lady Grey, near Aliwal North.

It is estimated that there are 9500 British troops in Ladysmith and 14,000 divided between the towns of Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and Estcourt. Lack of cavalry is delaying Major-general Clery's advance to the relief of Ladysmith.

Major-general Hildyard, in charge of the Ladysmith relief column, surprised the Boers at Willow Grange, South of Estcourt. The British charged the enemy and bayoneted 80 of them. The British loss was three killed and 44 wounded.

Ten thousand British troops are said to be marching northward from Estcourt.

The New Zealand Contingent arrived at Capetown last week, and the New South Wales and other Australian troops arrived there in the beginning of this week.

Mr. A. R. Barclay invites the electors of Dunedin to meet him on Friday next at the Drillshed, North Dunedin, and on Monday at the Wesleyan Hall, Woodhaugh. A monster meeting is to be held on Tuesday evening at the Garrison Hall.—* *

Wheeling says that—'The day of cheap single tube tyres has gone in America, and although a few cheap and trashy tyres continue to be sold, there has been a considerable change for the better, and the preference for good grade tyres is noticeable.' The same is equally applicable to Australian cyclists, ninety-nine out of every hundred of whom swear by the detachable Dunlop tyre, on account of its reliability and ease of detachment.—* *

Visitors to Queenstown will find first-class accommodation at McBride's family hotel. This well-known establishment is replete in each department with every requisite and of the best quality obtainable. Patrons may rest assured of receiving excellent attention, combined with civility and home comforts. A porter attends the arrival and departure of steamers, and first-class hacks and vehicles are kept for the convenience of excursionists.—* *

An important notice with regard to Mount Cook Hermitage and Hanmer Springs appears elsewhere in this issue. The hotel is still in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Ross, and Mr. Clarke will act as guide up to the end of February. The huts have been provisioned to meet the wants of tourists and climbers. For invalids afflicted with rheumatism, skin diseases, etc., the baths at the Hanmer Springs are ample, and the sanatorium has accommodation for visitors. A new building for board and lodging at lower rates will be ready about the beginning of the year. There are other houses where ample accommodation and excellent rooms may also be obtained.—* *

Messrs. Dwan Bros., hotel brokers, Wellington, report having sold the following hotel properties:—Mr. Robert Darroch's interest in the Club Hotel, Lambton Quay, Wellington, to Messrs. W. Manning and R. Baker, well known in commercial circles in this city; Mr. Henry T. Hawker's interest in the Rainbow Hotel, Kaiwarra, to Mrs. Goldfinch; Mr. William Piper's interest in the White Horse Hotel, Ngahauranga, to Mr. James Woods, an old Wellington resident; Captain W. G. North's interest in the Terminus Hotel, Picton, to Mr. Bernard McGuire, late of the Ranfurly Hotel, Wellington; Mr. John Hunter's interest in the Central Hotel, Otaki, to Mr. John Simpson, late of the Railway Hotel, Woodville; also the purchase of the Tavistock Hotel, Waipukurau, for Mr. George Ross, late of the Panama Hotel, Wellington.—* *