

## INTERCOLONIAL

Four Marist Brothers arrived in Sydney recently from France. Two of them, Rev. Fathers Bertin, S.M., and Vigne, S.M., have gone to Rua Sura (South Solomon Islands); and the Rev. Fathers Rausch, S.M., and Griswarsd, S.M., to Poporag (North Solomon Islands).

News was received by cable in Ararat on December 21 of the death of the Most Rev. Dr. Phelan, Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, America, which took place on the previous day, at the Episcopal Palace. He was 77 years of age, and celebrated the jubilee of his priesthood in May last. He had been in failing health for some time. The deceased prelate was a brother of Mother Ursula, of the Brigidine Convent, Ararat, to which institution he had been a constant benefactor.

Christmas Eve was a very busy day at St. Vincent's Convent (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), when over two hundred persons received help in the shape of meat, groceries, and provisions of all kinds, as well as large supplies of clothing. The Sisters desire to thank all their kind friends who aided them to afford this pleasure to the poor. Special thanks is due to the ex-pupils of the College, also to the ladies who did so much in the way of making garments and trimming hats, as well as to those who donated sweets and toys.

Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., most of whose missionary life has been spent in New Zealand (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), is once more renewing acquaintance with the city of his birth, having arrived in Sydney last week. For the past two years and a-half Father Herbert has been doing duty at Greymouth, and we regret to learn that his present visit to Sydney is not a mere pleasure trip, but a stern necessity in view of a run-down in health. All who know the zealous young Marist will hope that an extended sojourn in his native State will have beneficent effects upon a constitution which is sadly in need of recuperation.

A circular letter, signed by the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Rev. J. Norris, and Mr. W. L. Bowditch, on behalf of the Australian Catholic Truth Society, has been circulated. In commending the objects of the society, it is stated that the influence of revealed truth on the minds of Australian citizens is gradually growing less, and has well-nigh ceased to be a strong factor in men's lives. False standards of life tended more and more towards self-indulgence, and the modern world (it was often stated) had outgrown the creed of its childhood. The current literature of the day is largely steeped in materialism and agnosticism, and openly rejects the supernatural, while it too frequently inculcates immorality. The powerful 'man on the street' assumes that he has not only a right to express his opinion on everything in heaven or on earth, but that his opinion is of equal value with that of the trained intellect who has studied the question with ripe judgment and mature powers. The time has come for the adoption of new methods suited to the new circumstances of the day. It was greatly to be feared that many good people, secure in the confidence of their own traditional faith, were not alive to their responsibilities. It is promised that the first batch of twelve publications dealing with religious and scientific subjects will be ready for distribution early in January.

Dr. Dill Macky was placed on the horns of a dilemma the other day in the Presbytery (says the 'Freeman's Journal') and he got off with more or less grace. He moved a resolution which practically censured the Rev. Mr. Ferguson for that visit to the Pope—during which anything might have occurred—and this he watered-down somewhat by too much protestation of his charitable relations with his erring brother. It was a painful duty, but still a duty. The difficulty between duty and charity appealed to the Scottish humorists present, and the Rev. Mr. McIntyre relieved the tension imposed upon poor Mr. Dill Macky by proposing an amendment, which struck out every word of the resolution, except the word 'That,' and substituted words which stated that as Mr. Ferguson had gone to Rome in a purely private capacity as a globe-trotter, it didn't concern the Presbytery's dignity in the least; and other members went so far as to say that the Pope was not such a bad sort after all, and that a visit to him by a Christian clergyman, was preferable to one (say) to the Grand Llama of Thibet. In the end the amendment was rather enthusiastically carried, whereupon the Rev. Dill Macky declared that, although it did not go far enough—it was diametrically opposed to his—he was satisfied. The Rev. Dr. Dill is evidently on the down grade of influence.

## Friends at Court

## GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- January 15, Sunday.—Second Sunday after Epiphany. Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.
- 16, Monday.—St. Fursey, Abbot.
- 17, Tuesday.—St. Anthony, Abbot.
- 18, Wednesday.—Chair of St. Peter at Rome.
- 19, Thursday.—St. Canute, Martyr.
- 20, Friday.—SS. Fabian and Sebastian, Martyrs.
- 21, Saturday.—St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr.

St. Fursey, Abbot.

St. Fursey was son of Fintan, who succeeded Findiog as King of Munster, Ireland. He is said to have been born on the island of Inchiquin, in Lough Corrib, County Galway. It is believed that he was also educated there by the great St. Brendan of Clonfert. He embraced the religious life and founded a monastery at Rathmat or Killursa (now better known as Kilursa), County Galway. He became, with others of his relatives, a disciple of St. Meldan, visited the province of Munster, and afterwards went to England, where he was joyfully received by Sigebert, King of the East Angles. He founded a monastery at Cnobhershurg. Owing to disturbances and wars in England he returned to Gaul (France), where he was honorably received by Duke Haymon. He is also said to have journeyed to Rome. On his return he was received with every mark of affection by King Clavis II., and founded a monastery at Lagny. He also established a branch of his institute at Perrone. The fame of his sanctity and miracles spread far and wide. He was joined by St. Emilian and a band of Irish monks, who aided him in his missionary labors. He died at Macieres, France, about the middle of the seventh century. He is the patron saint of Perrone, France, where (as with us) his festival is celebrated on January 16.

St. Anthony, Abbot.

St. Anthony was a native of Upper Egypt. He was left by his father in the possession of considerable wealth, but as soon as practicable he made over his property to the poor, and retired into the desert, where for many years he led a life of remarkable austerity. He died in 356, at the age of 105.

Chair of St. Peter at Rome.

This feast commemorates the residence and pontificate of St. Peter at Rome. At first he had fixed his See at Antioch, but thinking it advisable that the Supreme head of the Church should reside in the capital of the then known world, he came to Rome. His residence there extended, according to the more commonly received opinion, from A.D. 42 to his martyrdom in 67.

St. Canute, Martyr.

St. Canute was King of Denmark. He used every endeavor to solidly establish the Christian religion, which had some time previously been introduced into Denmark, and to bring about the conversion of those of his subjects who still adhered to paganism. His zeal won for him the martyr's crown, A.D. 1086.

Saints Fabian and Sebastian, Martyrs.

St. Fabian was elected Pope in 236, and governed the Church for fourteen years. His life, like that of so many of the early Popes, was closed by martyrdom, A.D. 250.

St. Sebastian was an officer of high rank in the Imperial Guard. Owing to his virtue and courage, he was much esteemed by the Emperor Diocletian, and was enabled by the influence thus acquired to protect numbers of his persecuted fellow-Christians. He was beaten to death with clubs about the year 288.

St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr.

St. Agnes is one of the best known of the many martyrs whom the persecutions of the Roman emperors gave to the Church. She was but thirteen years of age at the time of her glorious death, in 304.

MYERS & CO., Dentists, Otagon, corner of George Street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth....