

Intercolonial

His Grace Archbishop Redwood left Sydney by the steamer 'Atua' on July 21 for Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga, and will return to Wellington via Auckland.

Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Lismore (N.S.W.), who is visiting his native land, has been telling the people there that Lismore, on the Richmond, was given that name by a Scotchman, whose wife was a native of Lismore, Waterford, her maiden name being O'Brien.

The Rev. Brother Bodkin, Superior of the Christian Brothers' Orphanage, Clontarf, Victoria Park, W.A., completed his fiftieth year in the Brotherhood on July 12. Forty out of the fifty years have been spent in the education of the youth of Australasia, the last ten having been in West Australia.

The silver sacerdotal jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Horan, Bacchus Marsh, Vic., was celebrated in an enthusiastic manner by his congregation on July 11. With the object of honoring the Rev. Dr. Horan they met him in St. Bernard's Hall and presented him with a handsome gold chalice as a mark of their appreciation of the good work he has done during the 22 years he has been stationed at Bacchus Marsh. Speaking at the celebration Councillor Cain stated that during the 22 years Father Horan had resided amongst them he had collected £12,000 in aid of the parochial buildings.

The Most Rev. Dr. Redwood, Archbishop of Wellington, visited Holy Cross College, Ryde, on July 18, for the purpose of obtaining a community of the Patrician Brothers for one of the large centres of his archdiocese (says the 'Catholic Press'). He conferred with the Rev. Brother Stanislaus, Provincial of the Brothers of St. Patrick, on the subject, the basic arrangements being satisfactory to all concerned. The Superior-General of the Brothers will in due time be notified of the Archbishop's desire, and if he grants the required permission, the new foundation will be made within twelve or eighteen months.

The twentieth anniversary of the appointment of the Rev. Father T. Rogers to the pastoral charge of Braxton (N.S.W.) was celebrated on Sunday, July 19, and to honor the event the people subscribed £400 to clear off the balance of an expenditure of £7643 1s 10d for church purposes in Braxton alone. Since Father Rogers' advent the expenditure in the outlying districts for the same purposes during that time has been £4532. Two new churches were built in the Wolombi district; a new church and convent in Cessnock; a school in Greta; a church, school, and convent in Glendonbrook; and in Braxton a new convent at a cost of over £2000, and a large addition to the presbytery besides.

From Seville, Spain, under date June 13, the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., has received a letter from his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, who, with the Bishop of Ballarat, was at the time of writing travelling through Spain. The Most Rev. prelate, in the course of his letter, said they had travelled through the greater cities of Spain, and seen most of the great cathedrals and palaces of the Spanish kings. The Archbishop speaks in glowing terms of the wonderful art treasures which he had seen, including the best of Murillo's paintings. 'We were most fortunate in the matter of agreeable weather, and although in the midst of summer, the atmosphere was not oppressive.'

The high honor of the freedom of the City of Kilkenny, conferred on Mr. Thomas Loughlin, of Ballarat (nephew of the late Martin Loughlin), who carried out the wishes of his uncle and built a splendid church in that city, has given very general satisfaction here (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the 'Freeman's Journal'). With a lavish hand, Mr. Thomas Loughlin has disbursed the means at his disposal during the past six or seven years of his residence in Victoria. The Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., received a cable from his Grace Archbishop Carr last week, that he and Bishop Higgins, of Ballarat, arrived in London on June 19, and on June 30 both prelates assisted at the consecration of the new parish church, Kilkenny, Mr. Loughlin being also amongst the visitors. The church, which is allowed to be one of the most perfect examples of Gothic architecture in Ireland, cost £30,000.

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Science Siftings

BY VOLT

Eighty Degrees of Frost.

It is difficult for us to form any conception of the degree of cold represented by the eighty degrees of frost recorded from certain parts of Russia (says the Dundee 'Advertiser'). Sir Leopold McClintock tells how in one of his Arctic expeditions a sailor was foolish enough to do some outdoor work at precisely this temperature. His hands froze, and when he rushed into the cabin and plunged one of them into a basin of water, so cold was the hand that the water was instantly converted into block of ice. At twenty-five degrees, Dr. Kane says, 'the moustache and under lip form pendulous beads of dangling ice. Put out your tongue, and it instantly freezes to this icy crusting. Your chin has a trick of freezing to your upper jaw by the luting aid of your beard. My eyes have often been so glued as to show that even a wink was unsafe.'

The Discovery of Dynamite.

Alfred Nobel as far back as 1848, during residence in France, produced the first nitroglycerine powder that was then known. It was in Hamburg that he discovered by chance dynamite guhr. Some of his powder had trickled out of a cask on the damp soil and became spoiled by the infusorial earth. This was a happy accident, for as soon as the moisture had evaporated he found that one part of this earth to three parts of nitroglycerine not only improved its substance as an explosive, but made it safer for handling. In 1879 Nobel dissolved nitrocellulose in nitroglycerine, which gave it a more gelatinous substance. After this he found that the more gelatinous cellulose was mixed in the nitroglycerine the more solid it became and the more slowly it burned, both of which were important discoveries. Of this substance he made a fuse, only to find that it was hardly satisfactory because it had not sufficient strength to act as a driving force.

Tantalum.

Ekeberg, the Swedish discoverer of tantalum, gave that name to the metal because of the tantalising difficulties that he encountered while investigating it. It is only recently that tantalum has been obtained in a state of purity, and the rapidity with which it has been produced, in response to the demands of commerce and industry, is almost unprecedented. It furnishes an excellent filament for electric lamps. Only a little while ago the mineral from which tantalum is obtained was so rare that not enough could be found to supply specimens to all the mineralogical museums. Now Australia alone produces more than 70 tons of tantalite a year. This does not seem a very great quantity, but it is to be remembered that a single pound of tantalum suffices to furnish 23,000 lamps, each of 25 candle power. The metal is so hard that it is said that a diamond-pointed borer making 5000 revolutions a minute produces in it after three days at work an excavation of only one-fiftieth of an inch in depth.

The Great Clock of Munich.

An American tourist in a recent letter gives a description of the great clock which has just been completed for the Rathaus of Munich. 'The clock,' says the writer, 'is only one of the features, and not one of the most wonderful. There is a monster chime, and moving figures represent a combat between mounted knights, a national dance, an ancient night watchman, an angel of peace, a clown and a cock. After the hour has been sounded the chimes play a national song; then two figures which stand near the dial strike the hour again with heavy sledges. Then a second song is intoned on the bells, and the tournament begins. While this is in progress a third melody is played, and the group of figures representing peasants go through the motions of the Schaffler dance. The clown makes grotesque movements, and the cock crows. In the night hours the watchman appears after the hour has been sounded. A lighted lantern is in his hand, and as he disappears around an angle of the tower his bugle sounds a well-known call, and with its last note the angel of peace appears.'

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