

Intercolonial

The sailors of the American fleet are to give a special concert in the Cardinal's Hall, Sydney, in aid of the Catholic Seamen's Mission.

Out of the New South Wales consolidated revenue fund the sum of £10,000 has been allotted to meet the expenses of the American fleet reception.

Cardinal Moran has contributed the biographical article on his uncle, Cardinal Cullen, to the American *Catholic Encyclopedia*. His Eminence declined to accept any honorarium.

It has been definitely arranged that the fine new church at Temora, the foundation-stone of which was laid in March last year, will be solemnly blessed and opened by his Lordship Dr. Gallagher (Bishop of Goulburn) on Sunday, October 18.

The Rev. Brother Hennessy, Assistant to the Superior-General of the Irish Christian Brothers, has arrived in Fremantle. He has come to make the visitation of all the houses of the Order in Australasia, and also to examine the schools.

The death of Sister Mary Ita Carroll occurred on Saturday, 1st inst., at St. Joseph's Convent, Perthville. For the last twenty years the deceased had labored zealously in many of the branch houses of the St. Joseph nuns in various parts of the diocese of Bathurst.

Mr. Justice O'Connor, of the High Court bench, on August 4 celebrated his fifty-seventh birthday. His Honor is a native of Sydney, and a graduate of the Sydney University. Prior to his elevation to the bench, in 1903, he had an active State and Federal political career.

The Archbishop of Brisbane (Dr. Dunne) has been bequeathed £2000 under the will of the late Jacques Blumenthal, the distinguished composer. Why the head of the Church in Queensland was chosen is not quite clear; in fact, the testator was not even aware that the prelate was an Archbishop, for the bequest was granted to 'the Roman Catholic Bishop of Brisbane, Queensland.'

In the Commonwealth Government *Gazette* of July 25 Master Edwin Bede Cameron, aged 14 years, is credited with the highest marks, and first place on the list of successful candidates, in a recent examination of the Federal Public Service, at which 82 candidates presented themselves. This pass entitles him to an appointment in the Federal Postal Department when he attains his 16th year, and to further promotion in the service without an examination. Master Cameron is a pupil of the Marist Brothers' School, Darlinghurst.

Several changes and appointments (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*) have been made by the Superior-General of the Irish Province of the Jesuit Fathers under whose jurisdiction the Australian houses of the Order are placed. The Very Rev. John Ryan, S.J., is succeeded in the office of Provincial in Australia by the Very Rev. Thomas P. Brown, S.J.; the Very Rev. P. Keating, S.J., has been transferred from Xavier College, Kew, to St. Mary's, North Sydney, and his place as Rector of the college is taken by the Rev. J. O'Dwyer, S.J.; the Rev. T. Claffey, S.J., also goes to St. Mary's, North Sydney; Father John Ryan will remain at St. Ignatius', Richmond, where he has resided for some months. The new Provincial was Superior of the Irish Province before coming to Australia. The new Rector of Xavier College, Father O'Dwyer, taught for some years the higher forms at Clongowes Wood College, Ireland, Riverview (Sydney), and Xavier College, Kew.

To the thousands of sickly, run-down, nervous, full-of-pain and suffering men and women, we recommend with all honesty and confidence this true friend, 'Dr. Ensor's Tamer Juice.'

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient....

'Catholic Marriages'. The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply, Manager, 'Tablet', Dunedin.

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Science Siftings

BY VOLT

Sensitive Plants.

There are plants so sensitive that if, when standing by them, you should suddenly put up your umbrella or sunshade, it would be quite sufficient to cause them instantly to close together their leaflets and turn down their leaf-stalks, just as if they were startled and alarmed by the movement. Indeed, on a sunny day, when the temperature is sufficiently high, you need not make even so decided a movement; merely your shadow coming in contact with their leaves will often cause them to fall slightly.

A Useful Tree.

The carnahuba palm of Brazil is the world's most useful tree. A department store tree, you might well call it; for it gives everything from medicine to cattle feed. Its roots make a very valuable drug, a blood purifier that is prescribed a good deal in the spring. Its timber takes a high polish, and is in demand among cabinetmakers for fine work. The sap becomes wine or vinegar, according to the way it is prepared; and starch and sugar are also obtained from this sap. The fruit of the tree is a cattle food; the nut is a good coffee substitute; the pith makes corks. There, can you beat it—medicine, sugar, coffee, starch, wine, corks, cattle food, lumber and vinegar, all from this one tree, the carnahuba palm?

One of Nature's Laws.

Let us observe a law common to all trees. First, neither the stems nor boughs of the maple, elm, or oak taper except at the point where they fork. Whenever a stem sends forth a branch and a branch sends off a smaller bough, bud or stem, they remain the same in diameter, and the original stem will increase rather than diminish until its next branch starts. No bough, branch or stem ever narrows near its extremity except where it parts with a portion of its substance by sending off another branch or stem. All trees are alike in this respect, and if all the boughs, branches, stems, buds, and blossoms were combined, and united without loss of space they would form a round log the same in size and diameter as the trunk from which they spring. This is one of nature's imperative laws, and never fails to prove true.

Arabic Figures.

Our figures are called Arabic not because they originated in Arabia—they came to Arabia from Hindustan—but because they were introduced into Spain by the Moors, Arabs, or their conquerors, and thence found their way into the rest of Europe. Nothing absolutely certain is known as to their origin, and there has been a good deal of controversy resulting over it, one of the two following theories probably being the correct one:—As excellent geometricians, they composed the written number out of geometrical figures. One has only one angle, two has two, three, etc.; 0, a circle, has none. Again, it is argued that the figures were composed of right angles and squares, the number of lines used indicating the number to be noted. There is one line in 1, and there are three in 3, seven in 7, etc. The Greeks and Romans had systems totally different from ours, and which made long calculations almost impossible; therefore it seems likely that the mathematicians of old had knowledge of what are now called Arabic figures.

The Voraciousness of Plants.

The voraciousness of plants was a subject touched on by Mr. G. M. Thomson during a lecture at Dunedin the other day. He spoke of a species which in many places grows in profusion about the Bluff, and which displays long, tempting-looking leaves or branches as a resting-place for flies. Immediately a fly rests there, however, he becomes a fixture, by reason of a glutinous substance which the plant has upon its leaves and branches. Finally the fly is engulfed in the leaf, for the strange thing, immediately it has him firmly, rolls itself around him, discharges upon him a secretion not unlike animal saliva, and in a very short time assimilates him. When the plant unrolls again to await another victim, all that remains of the unfortunate insect is his wings. The remainder of him constitutes part of the plant. Mr. Thomson said that he fed this queer plant on pieces of beef and mutton, which it accepted eagerly; it would not take a stone, however, or anything yielding no sustenance. It took a piece of cheese, 'but,' said the lecturer, 'it suffered from an acute fit of indigestion.' Another plant he described as common to New Zealand has small holes around its base, into which insects creep for shelter. By these means the hungry vegetable catches its victim, asphyxiates and slowly digests him.