

Intercolonial

His Grace the Archbishop of Brisbane, Most Rev. Dr. Dunne, attained the seventy-eighth year of his age on September 5.

According to Dr. Armstrong, the city health officer, Sydney, has been for the last five years the healthiest city of over 100,000 inhabitants in the world. The total deaths registered for August was 495, which is equal to a mortality of 10.44 per thousand.

A notable feature of the reception to the Earl of Dudley, the new Governor-General, was the joyous chimes of the bells of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, which pealed forth welcome during the swearing-in of the Governor-General and the procession to Parliament House.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran entered on the twenty-fifth year of his arrival in New South Wales on Tuesday, September 8. On September 16 his Eminence entered on his seventy-ninth year. The *Catholic Press* states that the Cardinal-Archbishop is as well and vigorous to-day as he was twenty-five years ago.

The Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne (Very Rev. Dean Phelan) has made the following changes in the location of priests:—Rev. T. B. Walsh, from Geelong to Oakleigh Mission; Rev. T. F. O'Sullivan, from South Melbourne to Geelong; Rev. M. D. Finan, from Collingwood to Brunswick; Rev. W. O'Farrell, from Brunswick to South Melbourne.

There was a remarkable meeting in Melbourne the other week, when the Irish-Australian, the Hon. John Gavan Duffy, son of Charles Gavan Duffy, the patriot of 1848, greeted the Irish-American, Ensign Robert Emmet, a kinsman of Robert Emmet, the patriot martyr of 1803. Both personify what Irishmen may accomplish when under conditions which give them liberty.

The Queensland Full Court was adjourned the other week owing to the illness of Mr. Justice Real, senior puisne judge. His Honor was sixty-one years of age last March, and it is fifty-seven years since he arrived in Queensland from Limerick. He has been eighteen years on the bench. He is perhaps the best type of Catholic layman in Australia, always upright and uncompromising when duty calls.

His Lordship Dr. Duhig, speaking in Brisbane on his return to Rockhampton after a visit to Sydney, said that of all the splendid pageants, decorations, ceremonies, and banquets given to the American fleet, nothing impressed him so much as the princely manner in which the Cardinal-Archbishop acted on the memorable occasion. Everything that his Eminence had a hand in was conducted on a splendid scale. 'Yes,' said Dr. Duhig, 'the Cardinal is not only a great ecclesiastic, but he is head and shoulders above anyone in his carrying out of even secular matters.'

On Lord Dudley's arrival at Brisbane he received a letter of welcome from the Queensland Irish Association. It stated that, while at the proper time Queensland Irishmen would gladly co-operate fully in Australia's dutiful and respectful greetings to him as Governor-General, they would not allow his unofficial visit to pass without signifying their appreciation of his services to Ireland as Viceroy, and his sympathy with Irish interests and aspirations. Confidence was also expressed that his stay in Australia would not diminish his kindly feelings towards the country in which he represented his Majesty so worthily, and that he would say from experience that self-government made Irishmen in Australia prosperous, contented, and loyal as any people in the Empire.

The death of the Rev. David Laseron (Anglican) the other day recalls one morning in June, 1892, when, seated in a railway carriage between Redfern and Kogarah, he received a bullet in his shoulder not intended for him. Mr. Thomas Walker (a one time M.L.A. of New South Wales, and now a member of the Western Australian Parliament) was excitedly handling a revolver in the same carriage, when it exploded, wounding the clergyman, to whom Walker was a complete stranger. Surgical operations failed to locate the bullet, and Mr. Laseron (a poor man) was compelled to relinquish professional work. About that time the Röntgen Rays were made known to the world, and hearing that Father Slattery, C.M., the Science Professor at St. Stanislaus College, Bathurst, had introduced the discovery into his physics laboratory, Mr. Laseron was conveyed to the college, where the bullet was localised and dislodged.

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Growth of Towns.

At the end of the French Revolution Europe only possessed twenty towns or cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants. These were: London, Dublin, Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, Amsterdam, Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, Naples, Rome, Milan, Venice, Palermo, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw, and Copenhagen. According to the latest returns, there are now 160, 59 of which possess 250,000 inhabitants. The cities of half a million number 23, and those of a million six. Thus Europe to-day possesses more cities of half a million than a hundred years ago it had of 100,000. If we go beyond Europe, the six towns of over 100,000 mounts up to twelve. These are: New York, 4,113,000; Chicago, 2,040,000; Philadelphia, 1,442,000 (in 1906); Calcutta, 1,027,000 (in 1901); Peking and Singan in China, 1,000,000. These figures are given by M. Foville in the *Paris Economist*, which points out that chemistry, electricity, steam, railways, and steamboats have been the means of changing the whole of the civilised world.

Sago.

Sago is a food starch, prepared from the deposit in the trunk of the sago palm. These grow mostly in the lowlands, seldom more than 25 feet in height, with a thick trunk and fine, palm-like leaves at the top. They mature in about fifteen years, and the hard shell and bark are filled with a pulpy mass. When the fruit ripens this disappears, and the tree dies. When the palms are cut down and the trunk divided, a starchy pith is abstracted and grated to a powder; this is kneaded with water over a strainer, and the starch is worked out of the woody fibre and settles in the trough below. This is cleansed by the addition of more water, the starch settling to the bottom. The water is drained off, the mass of starch is dried and used by the natives for soups and made into a form of bread. That intended for exportation is mixed into paste with water and rubbed through sieves into small grains, and is known as pearl sago, bullet sago, etc., and it has become an important article of starchy foods. Various other palms yield sago, but of an inferior quality to that of the sago palm.

A Rookery.

The Islands of St. George on the east coast of the Peninsula of California are a singular group of squeezed or lifted rocks on which the dew never settles and where rain never falls for years. These are the famous 'rookery islands,' where, for uncounted years, enormous numbers of birds of the sea and of the land have built their nests, deposited their eggs, and hatched their young. By some mysterious law of instinct and selection, the birds, from the beginning, allotted small islands and sections on the larger islands to the different species of the feathered race, so that the sea birds, like the frigate pelicans, the gulls, petrels, and the like, have their own allotments and the land birds theirs, and between them there is no friction or intrusion on each other's premises. With the first sign of dawn they begin the flight for their feeding grounds, and for hours the heavens are intermittently obscured by the countless members of the aerial host. They fly in battalions, or in orderly detachments, reach the feeding grounds on land or water 50 or 100 miles away, and at once scatter and separate in search of food. An hour before twilight, and timing their distance, they rise again, converge to an aerial centre, and wing for home. As the birds approach the rookeries they announce their coming by cries, calls, or shrieks, and are answered by those on the nests or by the young but lately hatched. The cry of the birds is heard far out at sea, and to the ship that sees no land the effect is weird and ghastly, if not ghostly. The decomposing bodies of dead birds, of feathers, bones, flesh and entrails, the disintegration of shells and the droppings from millions of birds for thousands of years have superimposed upon the primitive surface of the islands a deposit of great commercial value, and in places 80 feet deep. This deposit, saturated with ammonia and phosphorus, is called guano, and is used by farmers for fertilising agricultural land.—*Colorado Catholic*.

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