

## Intercolonial

The sacerdotal golden jubilee of the Holy Father was celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on Sunday, November 15. His Eminence Cardinal Moran presided at Solemn High Mass. The occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. Father J. Campbell, C.S.S.R.

The Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., laid the foundation-stone of additions to the Presentation Convent, Windsor, on Sunday, November 15. Addresses were delivered by the Dean, Bishop Corbett, Dean Hegarty, and others. The new building will provide much-needed requirements for the Sisters and boarders. The contract price is £3600.

Lady Gibson-Carmichael opened a three-days' bazaar at the Melbourne Town Hall on November 12, in aid of the building fund of the Girls' Training Home, Oakleigh, where 116 girls are receiving the care of those devoted ladies, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The additions (says the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*) will cost between £6000 and £7000. This convent undertakes the work of reforming and training girls, who come to them through the medium of the Children's Court and many other sources. There is no regard for creed, and purely undenominational training is conducted by the nuns. Within the last few months a new wing has been built, and is almost ready for occupation. All the improvements have been designed for the comfort of the inmates, and the new accommodation means that 250 girls will be enabled to receive training and care through the most critical years of their lives. At present there are 116 inmates at the Oakleigh Convent, and class-rooms have to be used as temporary dormitories.

Mr. Quinlan, who has been re-elected Speaker of the West Australian Parliament, is a Tipperary man by birth, and is one of the leading Catholic laymen of the Commonwealth (says the *Catholic Press*). In recognition of his labors on behalf of the Church, Leo XIII. created him a Knight of St. Silvester, and he was solemnly invested in the Cathedral, Perth, with the insignia of the Order by his Lordship Bishop Gibney. He is an enterprising public citizen, and one of the most respected men in the Western State. And there is no more patriotic Irishman in the Commonwealth, as a visit to his home in Adelaide Terrace, Perth, will convince anyone. Prominent among the pictures of Irish life on his walls is one of Robert Emmet, with his speech from the dock.

The Rev. Dr. Guiseppe D. Capra, of Milan, who is visiting Australia with a view to collecting information with regard to his countrymen here, was spent a few weeks in South Australia (says the *Southern Cross*). He has visited Port Pirie, Kadina, Wallaroo, and Moonta, and also Broken Hill. He is a member of the Salesian Order, and is a Doctor of Science and Agriculture of the University of Milan, and holds recommendations from the Italian Foreign Office and from the acting vice-consul in Adelaide. Dr. Capra desires to express his thanks and appreciation of the kindness and hospitality extended to him in Western Australia and South Australia by the Catholic clergy, secular and regular, and also by the Government. His Grace Archbishop O'Reilly has commended his mission, and bespeaks the assistance and sympathy of priests of the archdiocese. Dr. Capra finds the Italian population few and scattered in the places he has visited, but met some 1600 in West Australia, mostly engaged as miners and in the timber trade.

An impressive spectacle (says the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*) was witnessed in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, November 15, when over 3000 men received Holy Communion in a body. True, the leading feature of the demonstration of Catholic faith and piety was the presence at the altar-rails of 2000 members of the Catholic Young Men's Society, but added to these were 1000 men not actually members, but still in complete sympathy with the objects and aims of the society, which, as has been more than once said by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, is the pillar of the Church, and the mainstay of her future hopes. A few words of encouragement and of felicitation were given that array of Catholic manhood by the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G. In the name of the Catholic Young Men's Society, a cable was despatched to his Holiness congratulating him on the celebration of his golden sacerdotal jubilee, and intimating that 3000 men had that day offered their Communion for his intention.

## Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

### Spilled Mercury.

Mercury spilled on table or floor is somewhat hard to collect, unless special precautions are taken, owing to its tendency to divide into small globules, which roll away at the slightest touch. If a wet ring is made around the spilled mercury by the aid of a wash bottle or other similar means, it will be found that the globules of mercury cannot cross the ring. The mercury can then be collected in a small shovel made from a piece of thin card or even an ordinary envelope.

### The Cable Steamer Signal.

The 'telegraph' steamer is a vessel employed to lay down or pick up a telegraph cable, and every other boat, large or small, is obliged to keep out of her way. As a danger signal to other crafts the 'telegraph' steamer displays two red balls with a white diamond between them, and if the vessel is moving through the water the red and green side lights are also exhibited.

### Weight of a Lion.

What does a lion weigh? Those who know the look of the king of beasts best and how small his little body really is will probably come farthest from the truth. About 300 to 350 pounds is a usual estimate, but a full grown lion will tip the scales at no less than 500 pounds. Five hundred and forty pounds is the record for an African lion. His bone is solid and heavy as ivory. The tiger runs the lion very close. A Bengal tiger killed by an English officer scaled 520 pounds. A tiger this size has, however, considerably more muscular strength than the biggest lion.

### New Racing Device.

It is possible that in the near future the mono-rail gyroscope car, the invention of Mr. Louis Brennan, of torpedo fame, will become an important adjunct to racecourse equipment (says the *Sydney Morning Herald*). The inventor is brother to Mr. Joseph Brennan, official stenographer to the V.R.C., and the latter has written requesting him to construct a car with a seating capacity for half a dozen men, the vehicle to run on an elevated rail fixed on the outer edge of the racetrack, or inside the running rail, the vehicle to travel at the same speed as horses in a race. In this 'chariot of observation' the stewards would be seated, and thus from start to finish of a race would have the movements of horses and riders under their immediate notice. Mr. Louis Brennan is now under contract with the Indian Government to instal a gyroscope and mono-rail outfit for a track of 100 miles in length, and when that is completed he may devote his attention to the 'chariot of observation' suggested by his brother.

### A Peculiarity of the Eyes.

It is a fact not generally perceived by the majority of persons that if we run our eyes along the side of a room, or along the horizon, the eyeballs do not follow the movement of the head with a smooth, uniform motion, but keep in line by means of a series of quick, short, almost imperceptible jerks. At first one may not think that is so, but (says the *New York Tribune*) careful experiment will prove that it is. If the eyes are fixed on a moving object, then the motion of the eyeballs in following the object is uniform; but when it is the head that moves, while the objects looked at remain fixed, the eyeballs perform in the manner just described. It is not necessary in order to observe this phenomenon that visible objects should be before the eyes. Let the eyes be shut, the fingers pressed lightly on the closed lids, and the head then turned from side to side. The little jerks with which the eyeballs follow the motion of the head will be distinctly perceived. Among the curious scientific experiments that have been made in the effort to discover the meaning of this peculiarity of the eyes is one in which a turntable, large enough for a man to sit comfortably upon, plays a principal part. When the table is turned with a regular motion, the person sitting upon it, having closed his eyes, feels his eyeballs jerking as they follow the revolution of his head; but as the table continues to turn the jerking gradually ceases, and at the same time the person imagines that the revolution is becoming slower, until at last, when the eyeballs no longer twitch, the table seems to him to have stopped turning. If, then, the table is suddenly made to turn faster, the jerking sensation is renewed; and if, on the contrary, it is made to turn more slowly, the same sensation is experienced. But now the person imagines that he is being revolved in a direction opposite to that of the actual motion.

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