

INTERCOLONIAL.

A splendid new Catholic hall is now approaching completion in Ballarat. A sum of £4000 has already been expended on the building, which will cost £6000.

The Rev. Father Quinn opened a new presbytery recently in his picturesque Queenscliff parish, Victoria. The Rev. Father M. J. Maher, C.M., preached the special sermon.

The Commonwealth Fair to provide funds for a new presbytery at South Yarra has just been wound up, the profits standing at £1000. Rev. Father R. S. Benson is pastor.

A community of the Sisters of Mercy from Lilydale are shortly to be established in the new mission of Healesville, Victoria. On the same occasion the new presbytery for the Rev. P. Gleeson will be opened.

The Hon. R. E. O'Connor, Vice-President of the Federal Executive, made a vigorous speech at a dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral after the Commonwealth celebrations. He dwelt at length on the high plane to which the Cardinal had lifted the Federal movement, and to the sectarianism that has been levelled at Catholics. The grovelling sectarian spirit, he said, would never enter Federal politics. Sectarianism there would always be, but its home in future would be in the gutter, and public men could never again afford to descend to that level.

January 1, 1901, was made memorable in Maclean (N.S. Wales) by the extinction of the heavy debt that for a long period had hung heavily upon the beautiful local Catholic church, which is one of the landmarks of the Clarence River. Last year the new pastor, Rev. Father Walsh, took the knotty problem in hand. He agreed to pay £1750 to the Commercial Bank by the end of the year 1900. He set vigorously about the work of collecting, and with such wonderful success that by the last day of the year the debt was completely wiped off. That evening flags were hoisted from the tower of the church to signalise the consummation of the task undertaken by Father Walsh.

The *Australian Sentinel*, the Orange organ, intimates (says the *Advocate*) that Mrs. Coningham has not been excommunicated, but that she has left the Catholic Church voluntarily. Every Catholic will say good riddance of bad rubbish. In the future, says the same organ, if she went to public worship it would be to the Church of England. Her two ideal children are to be brought up Protestants. Her scruples about religion must be elastic. I should not be surprised to hear that she had joined the Orange lodge for women, and if everything else fails she has enough brass in her composition to mount the stump and lecture on 'the iniquities of Rome.'

Some time back a pickpocket relieved the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Brien, Rector of St. John's College (with in the University), of his valuable watch and chain, a presentation from his father. As the articles were never recovered, and could not be replaced, the Monsignor had the sympathy of many friends who heard of his loss, and they determined to compensate him in some degree, and at the same time give him a small proof of the high esteem in which he is held. So last week (says the *Catholic Press*) at a gathering of distinguished citizens in the Hotel Victoria, presided over by Major Freehill, the Monsignor was presented with a magnificent gold watch and a massive chain. The watch was inscribed: 'Presented to the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Brien by a few of his friends.' The Monsignor made a graceful acknowledgment of the gift. In the course of his few remarks he said that, dear as the associations wound up in the old watch were, he hardly regretted its loss, since in the one now presented to him he would recognise associations no less dear, as the thoughtful presentation was an indication that he had the respect and, he hoped, the affection of a large number of his fellow-Catholics in this community.

A demonstration of Catholic school children took place in connection with the Commonwealth celebrations in Sydney. An immense platform was erected near St. Mary's Cathedral, and here 4000 children assembled. The platform was now a moving mass of color, and the scene that presented itself to the eye of the observer was one of surpassing splendor and brilliancy. Flags innumerable floated from St. Mary's Cathedral, and in front were a profusion of flags and bunting, all symbolical of loyalty. Indeed all the colors of the rainbow were in evidence, and were so judiciously arranged that it would be impossible for the most aesthetic eye to find fault with anything in the whole magnificent pageant. The flags, together with the multi-colored dresses of the ladies and gaily bedecked children, lent an air of festive grandeur to the scene and formed a triumph of pictorial art, gorgeous coloring, and theatrical display that will long be remembered. Directly the clock chimed 10.30 Mr. J. A. Delany took up his position in front and led the children. As Lord Hopetoun's carriage approached St. Mary's a halt was made in the procession to enable his Excellency the Governor-General to listen to the singing of the Catholic schools hymn, the words of which are by Mr. P. E. Quinn, M.P., and music by Mr. J. A. Delany. The band of the 2nd Regiment, under the conductorship of Bandmaster Tilley, which accompanied the children in the singing, was happy in its selection of incidental tunes. The children, at the conclusion of the singing, gave three hearty cheers for his Excellency and the Commonwealth, who, in a most graceful manner, acknowledged the tribute. The children, assisted by the assembled multitude outside the cathedral, joined in singing the National Anthem, after which cheers were given for the Queen, and the procession resumed its journey. During the whole time the procession was passing the bells of St. Mary's Cathedral rang out joyous peals. The demonstration of the children from the Catholic schools on the whole was a magnificent spectacle, and probably one of the finest yet made. That the public thoroughly appreciated the pageant was evident from the frequent bursts of applause from the thousands of spectators that lined the route of the Commonwealth procession.

People We Hear About.

The death is recorded at Royton, near Oldham, England, of an Irishwoman named Kennealy, who had attained 110 years. She was the youngest of 13 children, and her reminiscences dated as far back as three years before the opening of the present century.

Justin McCarthy was 70 years of age on November 22. From the position of an obscure journalist in Cork to the editorial chair of one of the morning papers in London was his achievement in 16 years.

There are 34 nations represented by ambassadors in Washington, D. C. Twenty of these are Catholics; one, Russia, schismatic Catholic; five are heathen, six are Protestant, and the Dominican Republic and Hayti are more largely Catholic than Protestant, and the representatives of both are Catholic.

As a child Madame Albani made such a success in her first appearance on the concert platform that she was surrounded with bouquets. That was in a convent in Montreal, where she received her education. At 14 she was first soprano in a Catholic choir at Albany, New York, and at sudden notice became organist. Then her singing ability was noticed, a fund was raised, and she was sent to Europe for study in Paris and Italy. The rest is known.

Mr. John Morley, whose sixtieth birthday occurred recently, although he is in no way the austere man of tradition, is not rich in amusements. He likes long walks over Scottish hills and solitary meditations in country lanes, and he has the bookman's resource of supreme happiness in the seclusion of his library. The one relaxation he permits himself is music, of which he is intensely fond. An American newspaper was responsible for the report that Mr. Morley's favorite recreation was entomology, and that he was frequently seen with a butterfly net chasing a rare specimen. This, of course, was purely imaginative.

A remarkable article on Lord Russell of Killowen, in an American magazine, offers to its readers 'an estimate of his earnings at the Bar.' These were enormous, of course; but the writer overpasses the mark when he puts them at £20,000 a year for a period of 30 years. Somebody else has quoted Lord Russell himself as saying, when a rumor that he made £30,000 a year was quoted to him, that a third of the sum would be nearer the mark. The inference may be taken that his income averaged something under £20,000 a year over a longish period. As he kept a careful record of his fees, the question which has often been rather excitedly discussed will be settled once for all.

Mme. Julia Regnifo, the widow of General Regnifo, for many years the minister of Columbia to the United States, has just presented her beautiful jewels, the gift of her husband, to St. Aloysius' Church in Washington. It is the wish of the donor that they be placed on a chalice, the gold of which is to be made from sword hilts and other personal belongings of General Regnifo. The bereaved lady is now in Paris, and will there select the model for this magnificent chalice.

Mr. William O'Malley, who is the Parliamentary representative of the Connemara division of Galway, is a well-known journalist. He was for a considerable time manager of the *Weekly Sun* of London, when the journal was under the control of T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and was also connected with the *London Star*. He was born in the year 1857, and is married to a sister of Mr. T. P. O'Connor. He is an astute and able politician, and has rendered good services to the Irish Parliamentary Party.

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan naturally enough comes in for notice in Mr. Clement Scott's *Free Lance*. After describing the Cardinal's appearance—he calls him 'the handsome Cardinal'—his receptions, and his self-denial, he says: 'With the exception of two brothers, Colonel and Reginald Vaughan, of Courtfield, Ross, and Glen Irothy, Abergavenny, all Mrs. Vaughan's children, for whom she prayed so earnestly, have become priests or nuns. Teresa Vaughan joined the Sisters of Charity in 1861, who were then in Park street, Westminster. She offered herself to the Superiress, Sister Chatelain, who, noticing at once her symptoms of delicate health—and, indeed of consumption—made her reception apparently out of the question. Teresa, nothing daunted, exclaimed: "If I cannot live as a Sister of Charity, let me, at least, die as one." Her wish was granted, and Teresa Vaughan was the first Sister of Charity who died in England. Of his brothers, four entered the Church—Bede, who died Archbishop of Sydney; Bernard, of the Society of Jesus, Rector of the Holy Name, Manchester; John, Domestic Prelate of his Holiness; and Kenelm, founder of the House of Expiation, now in South America collecting funds for the new Westminster Cathedral. In addition to the four brothers who entered the ecclesiastical state, the Cardinal has two uncles—William, Bishop of Plymouth, who was born in 1814, was consecrated by Cardinal Wiseman in 1855, and Edmund, a member of the Redemptorist Congregation. To this fairly formidable list of clerical relatives must be added two nephews, sons of Colonel Vaughan, of Courtfield.'

A shipment of the beautiful Sterling Bicycles—chain, chainless, and free wheels—has just been received. They are more beautiful, if possible, than ever. Intending purchasers of bicycles should certainly see the Sterlings before deciding on any other. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin sole agents.—*

A little wonder is the Broadcast Patent Seed-sower sold by Morrow, Bassett, and Co. For sowing turnip, rape, grass and clover seed it has no equal, while for oats, wheat, and barley you have only to see it to know its value. A boy can work it. Sow four acres per hour, and any quantity up to six bushels per acre. Price only 20s.—*.