

THE two scholarships given annually at St. Patrick's College Wellington, tenable for two years and valued at 40 guineas each, have this year been won by Masters A. Venning and V. Geaney, of the Marist Brothers' School, Timaru. It will be remembered (says the *Timaru Herald*) that one of last year's scholarships was carried off by a pupil from the same school. That both the scholarships should have been carried off by the Marist Brothers' School reflects great credit on the school and the devoted Brothers who conduct it. We wish the winners of these valuable prizes success in their college career. Venning belongs to Timaru and Geaney to Geraldine.

THE Registrar-General, Mr. E. J. von Dadelsen, asks for the intelligent co-operation of every person in charge of a dwelling-house in bringing to a successful issue the census which will be taken on the night of Sunday, March 31. The Colony has been divided into 42 enumerators' districts, each consisting of a group of contiguous counties with their interior boroughs. The enumerators have divided their districts into sub-districts, for each of which a sub-enumerator has been or is to be selected to distribute and collect the household schedules. There will be about 850 sub-enumerators altogether. Each sub-enumerator will be provided with a map of his district, coloured to show all existing territorial divisions, such as electoral districts, counties, ridings, road and town districts, besides boroughs, and the populations of all these will be ascertained. The areas of the sub-enumerators' districts will also be marked off on the maps into small blocks, and the population of these given by the sub-enumerators, for the purpose of defining new electoral districts for the apportionment of the European representation of the people in Parliament. The particulars required by the Act respecting the people include name, sex, married or single, birthplace, length of residence in colony, religion, occupation, education, whether British subject or alien, if suffering from sickness, accident, or infirmity. The dwellings are also to be described in respect of rooms and material. Besides the information as to the population, special returns will be collected relating to all industries, manufactories, or works in the Colony, giving particulars as to the hands and power employed, value of materials operated on, produce or manufacture, value of land and buildings, machinery, and plant. Further, returns of places of worship, land and building societies, literary and scientific institutions, etc., will also be collected by enumerators from information supplied by sub-enumerators.

A TRAVELLING correspondent writes:—For some time past the clergy in Taranaki have been bringing before their respective congregations the great necessity of practically supporting the only Catholic newspaper in New Zealand. They declare with no uncertain voice that if it were not for the efforts of the TABLET in the past Catholics would not enjoy the toleration that they do now. During the last 12 months the Church had been going through a grave crisis in Australasia. First, they said, the unfortunate Slaterry came to rouse up old passions and cause bitter sectarian strife. Slaterry's departure was followed by the unearthing of a so-called 'scandal' at Stoke, where, besides other accusations a Brother was accused of a crime of the gravest possible import. And lastly the Coningham divorce case at Sydney came up for consideration. Through the able and energetic efforts of the editor of the TABLET, Slaterry's mission was a failure. Regarding the secular press generally and the Stoke prosecutions—or persecutions—it was not worthy the reports of the trials in the lower Court were headed with big black lines. And some papers had the bad form to comment upon the cases whilst they were *sub judice*. But when the Supreme Court trials came on the results were of the wrong sort—for some people and newspapers—for the black headings had disappeared, and in many cases a 'local' of three or four lines constituted the report. The editors were away to 'bark up another tree.' The speakers said that by subscribing to a Catholic newspaper a silent preacher would be in their homes. Catholics should not be satisfied by saying their prayers and going to Mass, but should so inform themselves on matters pertaining to their Church as to be able to combat accusations and slanders made against it. And one of the best weapons to place in their hands was the TABLET.

INTERCOLONIAL.

Major Murray, of the Sydney Irish Rifles, who had been engaged in active service in South Africa, has returned to Sydney where he received a hearty reception from his many friends.

A carnival in aid of St. Ambrose's Church, Brunswick, Archdiocese of Melbourne, resulted in a net profit of £700. Rev. Father E. J. Luby is parish priest.

There are 17 Catholic members of the Victorian State Parliament. The most prominent are Mr. McLean (ex-Premier), Mr. John Gavan Duffy (who was Postmaster-General in two of Turner's Cabinets), Mr. Mason (Speaker of the House), Mr. Morrissey (Minister of Agriculture), and Mr. Duggan (Minister of Lands). Mr. Trenwith's colleague for Richmond (Bennett) is another. He is the more popular of the two in the constituency and always heads the poll.

The *Freeman's Journal* reports that a pretty wedding was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Woollahra, on Monday, January 21, when Miss Fannie Quinn (youngest daughter of Mr. P. Quinn, of Darlinghurst, and late of Cobargo, N.S.W.) was married to Mr. John A. Griffiths (eldest son of the late Mr. Jeremiah Griffiths, of Brunnerton, New Zealand). The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Fitzgerald, O.F.M., in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends.

Three of our foremost public men (writes a Melbourne correspondent) are self-made. Mr. Isaacs, who was a school teacher, had the best start of the three. He quitted educating to go into the Crown Law Department, where he laid the foundation of a brilliant career, and made himself an almost necessary Attorney-General

in any Liberal Cabinet. Mr. Peacock, who will shortly be Premier, started hard graft (10 and 11 hours a day) in a country store at the small end of his teens. Mr. Trenwith struck out manfully at 13 to get bread for himself and a younger brother. The three are members of the present Ministry. Trenwith's portfolio (Railways) was well earned. He saved the Premier, and made the Federal Treasurership a certainty for him. Bootmaking is his trade.

The several religious and educational buildings now in course of erection in the suburbs (says the *Melbourne Advertiser*), whose inauguration has been recently noticed in our columns, are being rapidly advanced by the contractors. They include St. John's Church, East Melbourne; Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford; school-hall and presbytery, West St. Kilda; presbytery, Essendon; additions to Presentation Convent, Elsternwick; school-hall Kew. Chalmers' Church, East Melbourne, has been demolished as a preparatory step to putting in the foundation of the proposed new high school for the Sisters of Charity. The new St. Vincent's Hospital, as already mentioned, will be erected on the present site as soon as plans shall have been approved for the proposed new medical charitable institution.

The Old Age Pensions Act (writes a Melbourne correspondent) has brought in the staggering number of 18,000 applications. The Act was drafted with an eye on a possible 6000, and the Premier is in somewhat of a quandary. Very many applications are, of course, not eligible; but there will probably be a large excess over 6000. That somewhere about 20,000 people of 65 years of age and upwards should be in a condition of hard poverty in this petty State of a million inhabitants is a note that sounds a loud discord in the triumph song of the nineteenth century. Steam, electricity, emancipation, liberty, science, and the most progressive of countries—and a score thousand of aged, helpless, decrepit human beings creep out of the oblivion in which they hid themselves from the public gaze to get a dole that will alleviate the sufferings of their few remaining years.

The will of the late Mr. E. T. Flanagan (says the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*) is perfectly consistent with his life. His purse was ever at the service of religion and charity during his life, and in death they are not neglected. The will of the deceased gentleman discloses a generous thoughtfulness in favor of those charities which he was wont always to consider during life. The various bequests are as follows: St. Mary's Cathedral Building Fund, £100; St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, £100; Good Samaritan Refuge, Tempe, £100; St. Joseph's Providence, Cumberland street, £50; Little Sisters of the Poor, Randwick, £50; Lewisham Hospital, £50; St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kincumber, £25; Good Samaritan Industrial School, Manly, £25; St. Anne's Orphanage, Liverpool, £25; Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, Waratah, £25; St. Vincent's Boys' Home, Westmead, £20; St. Vincent de Paul Society, Burwood, £5. He has also devised to his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop for investment, the proceeds to be applied in establishing bursaries for the maintenance and education of students for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Manly, the sum of £2200.

As announced in a recent issue, the Very Rev. J. Dunne, V.G., received the majority of votes of the clergy for the See of Bathurst. The nominations will be forwarded to the Holy See. Father Dunne is a native of Mitchelstown, County Cork, Ireland. He studied at All Hallows College, Dublin, and was a class-fellow of Archbishop O'Reilly, of Adelaide. When quite a young man Father Dunne was ordained priest. He arrived in New South Wales about thirty years ago, and has been known throughout the diocese as an active, self-sacrificing, and zealous priest. His first charge was Dubbo, and while there he was primarily responsible for the fine Catholic church and convent buildings. On the appointment in 1885 of the late Right Rev. Dr. Byrne to the Catholic Bishopric of Bathurst, Father Dunne was invited by the newly-made prelate to become Administrator of Bathurst. In January, 1896, he was made Vicar-General, his pastorate having been marked by the erection of churches, convents, and schools. He is mainly responsible for the Patrician Brothers' Monastery, the additions and completion of SS. Michael and John's Cathedral, which embraces the new sanatorium, and the splendid brick church and convent at Perth. After laboring in Bathurst for some years as Vicar-General, he asked his late Bishop to allow him to return to Dubbo, so that he might undertake to wipe out the debt of £3500 remaining on church buildings. This he succeeded in doing, and also in effecting substantial additions and improvements to the Dubbo convent. He remained in Dubbo about three years and returned to Bathurst to relieve the late Bishop Byrne, when the latter's health commenced to fail him. It is understood that the selection has given general satisfaction amongst the priests of the diocese and his people.

THE MEANING OF THE WORD LIBERTY.

MR. RUSKIN was of the opinion that what is called liberty is often the worst sort of slavery, and that obedience is one of the most beautiful things in the world. To be obedient, he says, was one of the first lessons he ever learned; and he tells us about it in these characteristic words:

'One evening, when I was yet in my nurse's arms, I wanted to touch the tea-urn, which was boiling merrily. It was an early taste for bronzes, I suppose, but I was resolute about it. My mother bade me keep my fingers back: I insisted on putting them forward. My nurse would have taken me away from the urn, but my mother said: "Let him touch it, nurse." So I touched it, and that was my first lesson in the meaning of the word liberty. It was the first piece of liberty. It was the first piece of liberty I got and the last which for some time I asked.'

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