

Ireland (produce department)—Misses Corcoran and M'Lochlan, assisted by Misses Crowley and Dalziel.

Ireland (fancy department)—Mrs Lloyd, assisted by Misses Morgan, Crowley, McKenna, and Kennedy.

'New Zealanders for Africa'—Mesdames Neylon, Simpson, and Labatt, assisted by Misses Simpson (3), Crobb, Clapham, and Conroy. Canada, 'The Lady of the Snows'—Mesdames Du Flou, Cullinane, Keegan, and Wilkie, assisted by Misses Brown, Morton, Menzies, Simon, Hearne, Gordon, McKittrick, and Cullinane (2).

Good business was done, and when the bazaar closes on next Tuesday no doubt a substantial sum will have been realised.

On Sunday last Dean Kirk referred to the successes of the Wanganui Convent at the recent Matriculation examination. He pointed out that now our girls could be taken to the very doors of the universities. He also referred to the loss the boys had sustained by the transference of Bro. Alfred to Wellington. Bro. Alfred, during his six years' stay in Wanganui, had proved himself a splendid teacher, for besides the ordinary school work, he had passed boys far the junior and senior Civil Service and the Matriculation examinations. Bro. Augustine succeeds him.

PUBLICATIONS.

THE Christmas number of our esteemed contemporary, the San Francisco Monitor, is a decidedly creditable production consisting of over 30 pages, into which are crowded seasonable articles, interesting tales, and appropriate illustrations.

We have received from Messrs. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, a report on their annual writing competition, open to pupils in the schools of Australasia. These competitions are becoming more popular year by year, as the entries for 1900 showed an increase of 101 over the previous year. Two hundred and fifty-one schools competed, and 142 gained one or more prizes. We notice that the Marist Brothers' school, North Sydney, comes second on the list with 16 prizes. A pupil of this school, Master Joseph H. A. Pyne, was the winner, in New South Wales, of the special gold medal for general excellence. Master Thomas Carey, Marist Brothers' School, Kilmore, was the winner of the gold medal in Victoria for general excellence, and Miss Martha Devery, of St. Mary's Catholic school, Nelson, was the winner in New Zealand. In the pupil teachers' competition Misses Cecilia Arnold, Hannah Leighton, Florrie McCarthy, and Evelyn Kelly, all of St. Mary's Catholic school, Nelson, got places.

It is somewhat strange that England and Russia, the one the most progressive, the other the most conservative, should be the only two countries in Europe to-day which do not use the metric system of weights and measures and decimal coinage. Even Russia, it is said, is likely to adopt the system very soon. It is alleged by those in favor of its introduction into the British Empire that under the metric system 'our present antiquated, cumbersome and methodical scheme of tables and our long, laborious operations in the compound rules would vanish.' Messrs Angus and Robertson, of Sydney, send us a handbook designed for the use of upper classes in primary schools and others who may desire to become acquainted with the system. A study of the handbook will certainly help to remove many prejudices and show the simplicity attending calculations by the metric system.

From the Irish People Office, Dublin, comes the Christmas number of *St. Patrick's*, a bright little journal devoted to light literature. This candidate for popular favor was started some 12 months ago, and since then has won its way by leaps and bounds into the homes of the Irish people. At present Ireland is inundated with the trashy literature which is so much in vogue at the other side of the Channel, a good deal of which is decidedly pernicious, and against which the hierarchy of Ireland have found it necessary time and again to warn their flocks. If the people will read light literature it ought to be healthy in tone and moral in character, and it was with the object of supplying a substitute for the imported and baneful article that *St. Patrick's* was started. That it has to a great extent succeeded is evidenced by the large circulation which it now enjoys, notwithstanding that it has been only a year in existence. The serials and short stories are by well-known Irish writers, and are racy of the soil. When the Irish people spend so much on the pernicious and unwholesome literature published in London, it would be base ingratitude on their part not to support a magazine such as *St. Patrick's*.

An elderly man is required as gardener for the Convent' Nelson.—*.

Witches Oil cures pains and aches, neuralgia, headache, sciatica, rheumatism. Price, 2s 6d. Try it.—*.

The invention of the Dunlop tyre only partly succeeded in killing vibration in cycles, and there is room for improvement in the 'shock absorbing' direction.—*.

The enormous output of McCormick machines defies the mental grasp of man. If the machines they manufacture were to issue from the gate of their works (the largest in the world), the spectators would see throughout the working day a McCormick machine emerging at full gallop every thirty seconds.—*.

Did you ever read *Helen's Babies*, and do you remember the delightful enthusiasm of little Toddy when he got at the internal workings of somebody's watch and wanted to see 'the wheels go round'? And does it occur to you that wheels occupy a pretty important part in cycles? We have realised this fact, and as an evidence of the attention given the subject, want you to examine the latest Sterling chain, chainless, and free wheels. Built like a watch. New shipment just landed. Morrow, Bassett, and Co.—*.

Friends at Court.

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

February 21, Sunday.—First Sunday in Lent.
 " 25, Monday.—St. Felix III., Pope and Confessor.
 " 26, Tuesday.—St. Margaret of Cortona.
 " 27, Wednesday.—St. Marcellus, Pope and Martyr.
 " 28, Thursday.—St. Ignatius, Bishop and Martyr.
 March 1, Friday.—Feast of the Lance and Nails.
 " 2, Saturday.—St. Simplicius, Pope and Confessor.

ST. IGNATIUS.

St. Ignatius, surnamed Theophorus, a word implying a divine or heavenly person, was a zealous convert and an intimate disciple of St. John the Evangelist, as his acts assure us; also of the apostles SS. Peter and Paul, who united their labors in planting the faith at Antioch. It was by their direction that he succeeded Evodius in the government of that important see, as we are told by St. Chrysostom, who represents him as a perfect model of virtue in that station, in which he continued upwards of forty years. During the persecution of Domitian, St. Ignatius defended his flock by prayer, fasting, and daily preaching the word of God. In the year 106, the ninth of his reign, Trajan set out for the east on an expedition against the Parthians, and made his entry into Antioch on the 7th of January, 107, with the pomp of a triumph.

Ignatius as a courageous soldier, being concerned only for his flock, willingly suffered himself to be taken and carried before Trajan, who thus accosted him: 'Who art thou, wicked demon, that durst transgress my commands, and persuade others to perish?' The saint answered: 'No one calls Theophorus a wicked demon.' Trajan said: 'Who is Theophorus?' Ignatius answered: 'He who carrieth Christ in his breast.' Trajan replied: 'And do we not seem to bear the gods in our breasts, whom we have assisting us against our enemies?' Ignatius said: 'You err in calling those gods who are no better than devils, for there is only one God Who made heaven and earth, and all things that are in them, and one Jesus Christ, His only Son, into Whose kingdom I earnestly desire to be admitted.' Trajan said: 'Do not you mean Him that was crucified under Pontius Pilate?' Ignatius answered: 'The very same, Who by His death was crucified with sin its author, Who overcame the malice of the devils, and has enabled those who bear Him in their heart to trample on them.' Trajan said: 'Dost thou carry about Christ with thee?' Ignatius replied, 'Yes, for it is written, I will dwell and walk in them.' Then Trajan dictated the following sentence: 'It is our will that Ignatius, who saith that he carrieth the crucified Man within himself be bound and conducted to Rome, to be devoured there by wild beasts, for the entertainment of the people.' The holy martyr, hearing this sentence, cried out with joy, 'I thank Thee, O Lord, for vouchsafing to honor me with this token of perfect love for Thee, and to be bound with chains of iron in imitation of Thy Apostle Paul, for Thy sake.' Having said this, and prayed for the Church, and recommended it with tears to God, he joyfully put on the chains and was hurried away by a savage troop of soldiers to be conveyed to Rome.

He arrived at Rome on the 20th of December, the last day of the public entertainments, and was presented to the prefect of the city, to whom the Emperor's letter was delivered at the same time. He was then hurried by the soldiers to the amphitheatre. The saint, hearing the lions roar, cried out: 'I am the wheat of the Lord; I must be ground by the teeth of these beasts to be made the pure bread of Christ.' Two fierce lions being let out upon him, they instantly devoured him, leaving nothing of his body but the larger bones. Thus his prayer was heard. 'After having been present at this sorrowful spectacle,' says our author, 'which made us shed many tears, we spent the following night in our house watching and praying, begging of God to afford us some comfort by certifying us in His glory.' They relate that their prayer was heard, and that several of them in their slumber saw him in great bliss. They are exact in setting down the day of his death, that they might assemble yearly thereon to honor his martyrdom. The Greeks keep his feast a holy day on the day of his death, December 20. His martyrdom happened in 107.

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA.

St. Margaret of Cortona was born at Alviano, in the diocese of Chiusi, in Tuscany, about the middle of the thirteenth century. At the age of sixteen she fell away from God, and for nine or ten years Margaret led a life of shame. She was still in the bonds of sin when one day she saw the body of her partner in guilt, who had been murdered, covered with worms. She then entered into herself and resolved to do penance for her evil life. She returned to her father's house, and he received the prodigal child. Margaret spent night and day in bewailing her past guilt, and with a rope round her neck begged pardon publicly in the parish church for the scandal she had given. Her stepmother objected that her penance compromised the respectability of the family, and persuaded her father to send her away. Margaret thereupon went to Cortona and put herself under the care of the Friars of St. Francis, who, after a long trial to test the sincerity of her conversion, admitted her to the third Order, called the Order of Penance. She who had once lived in luxury, pampering her body, lived henceforth a life of heroic patience and mortification in a narrow cell, but perfectly obedient in all things to her confessors, growing in holiness, in mastery over self, and in perfect detachment from the world. She died February 22, 1297, and her incorrupt body still testifies to the efficacy of her penance and to the recovered purity of her soul.