

INTERCOLONIAL.

The Rev. Father Thomas Brown, S.J., is acting as *locum tenens* for the Very Rev. Ryan, S.J., at Hawthorn, Melbourne, during the latter's absence in Europe.

The new convent chapel of the Sisters of Charity just opened at St. Vincent's College, Sydney, cost over £7000. It is said to be one of the finest convent churches in Australia.

In consequence of the prevalence of the plague in Sydney his Eminence Cardinal Moran has granted to the city and suburban parochial districts the same relaxation in the Lenten Fast and Abstinence as was granted last year.

The following are the District Officers of the H.A.C.B. Society (New South Wales) for the current year:—District President, Bro. R. McCormack, J.P. (unopposed); District Vice-Presidents, Bros. M. J. Egan (Juneo), and J. McElhone, J.P.; District Secretary, Bro. O'Loughlin (unopposed); District Treasurer, Bro. W. Hogan (unopposed); District Trustees, Bros. J. Dwyer, J. Woods, T. Sweeney.

The personal friends and admirers of the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan, N.S.W., have decided to present him with his portrait, painted by Mr. H. J. Thaddens, R.H.A. The Minister was born on March 17, and the portrait will be a birthday gift. At a meeting in the Hotel Australia, with Mr. Freehill in the chair, £50 was subscribed in the room, and speeches were made by prominent public men eulogising Mr. O'Sullivan. Mr. Freehill described him as a man who reflected the greatest possible credit on the public life of the country, and said that even those who differed from him in politics had the greatest possible admiration for him as a man. Mr. M. Meagher was appointed hon. secretary to the movement, and Mr. J. W. Purves hon. treasurer. The portrait is an excellent one, and it represents the Minister in all his force of character.

'What are Cardinal Moran's resources?' That is a question (says the Sydney correspondent of the *Adelaide Southern Cross*) put to Catholics from time to time. No one can give a definite answer. It is no matter for surprise that people ask the question, for his Eminence gives large sums away almost every week. The amounts publicly announced make only a small proportion of his donations. To one institution, I know, he gave £15,000 privately. At every foundation-stone laying his Eminence heads the list of subscriptions. I visited the Waitara Foundling Hospital the other day, and in showing me round the Sister in charge said: 'The Cardinal came here unexpectedly some time ago, and he said, "You are in need of a laboratory; you want this, and you want that." And he presented us with everything we stood in need of.' It is always the way. When the orphanages are in distress they turn to the Cardinal for relief. And it seems they are never disappointed.

Early on Tuesday morning, February 25, the Convent of Mercy, Wyalong, situated near the hospital, about a mile from the town, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was given by telephone from the hospital to the presbytery at West Wyalong, three miles away, it being found impossible to establish telephonic communication with any closer subscribers at such an early hour. By the time Rev. Father Ryan had arrived on the scene by bicycle the whole building was enveloped in flames. The Sisters were in some danger, being unable to get through a wire-netted enclosure which surrounds the building. Their personal effects, which were removed by the Sisters and placed against this wire fence, were eventually burned. The building was constructed of wood, and consisted of five principal rooms and an oratory, with the necessary adjuncts of kitchen and servants' quarters, the whole being surrounded by a spacious verandah. The building was erected in 1895 as a residence for the parish priest who gave it up to the Sisters of Mercy on that Order establishing a branch in Wyalong. The whole of the building and contents were absolutely destroyed.

The Marist Fathers (says an exchange) are looking forward to a great event in the intended opening this year of their cathedral at Suva, Fiji. The coral territories of the Pacific are poor in the materials of great buildings; stone and timber must be brought to them from Australia or New Zealand, and the cost of building is thus very greatly increased. The Cathedral of Suva is of massive proportions; it is built of stone which has been hewn out of the Pymont Quarries, and carried 2,000 miles in steamers. The month of August has been chosen because its climatic conditions are the best of the year. Negotiations are in progress for the provisional chartering of the large intercolonial steamers by the Marists. It is proposed to take from Sydney 100 or more visitors, for whom the trip will be made of exceptional interest. A cruise will be made through the principal islands of the Southern Oceanic Mission, including Tonga, New Caledonia, and the Solomons.

At the recent municipal elections at Parramatta Alderman John Toohey was re-elected, while Mr. T. Gilmour was sent into the Council for the South Ward. Two features of this event are worthy of note. Alderman Toohey is president of the Executive Council of the Hibernian-Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, while Alderman Gilmour is one of the few survivors of the original band who at Albury founded the society in New South Wales nearly a generation ago. This would not be a very noteworthy circumstance but for the fact that in both cases the successful candidates were opposed by the Orange faction. The Rev. Dill Macky visited the district during the struggle, and made a vigorous appeal to the sectarian prejudices of the electors, but—and it speaks well for the municipal common sense of Parramatta—the electors refused to reject men who could serve them well in matters of sanitation and comfort simply because they professed a particular faith.

The First Silver Wedding.

ACCORDING to an historian, this is the way the first silver wedding came about. It was in the time of Hugh Caput. Two of his most faithful servants, a man and a woman, had grown grey in his employ. How could he reward them?

Calling the woman, he said: 'Your service is great, greater than the man's, whose service is great enough, for the woman always finds work harder than a man, and, therefore, I will give you a reward. At your age I know of none better than a dowry and a husband. The dowry is here—this farm from this time forth belongs to you. If this man who worked with you five and twenty years is willing to marry you, then the husband is ready.'

'Your majesty,' said the old peasant, 'how is it possible that we should marry, having already silver hairs?'

'Then it shall be a silver wedding,' and the King gave the couple silver enough to keep them in plenty. Such was the origin of the silver wedding, a custom which, spreading all through France, subsequently became known to the world.

St. Zacharias, who was Pope from 741 to 752, was born in Syria. He was a canon regular, Benedictine, successor of Gregory III. He became the umpire of princes and sovereigns, succeeded in conciliating the Lombards, and saved the Roman Duchy from their further invasions. By a visit to King Luitprand, he obtained peace for the Exarch of Ravenna and the restoration of the captured town to the emperor. Upon Rachis, successor of Luitprand, the dignified appearance of the Pope made such an impression that the king relinquished, not only his conquests but also the world, and became a monk in the monastery of Monte Cassino. Pope Zacharias appointed Boniface Archbishop of Mentz and Primate of Germany. By order of the same Pope the saint, in 752, crowned Pepin the Short, king of the Franks.

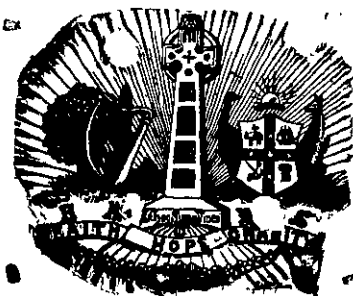
Visitors to Wellington will find first-class accommodation at Pyke's Imperial Hotel, Cuba street....

We notice that the steamer Express is advertised to leave the wharf at 10.30 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day, and will be back in town at 5 p.m. This will be in plenty of time for the concert, and a very pleasant day can be thus spent if the weather is fine...

Our readers in Oamaru and district will notice that Mr William Bee, family grocer, bread and biscuit manufacturer, and wine and spirit merchant, has an advertisement in another part of this issue....

Gall and Wormwood are both used in making imported wine in England. The man who labels it supplies the gall.

When you see a girl with only one glove on it's a sign that she has a new ring on the other hand.



HIBERNIAN-AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, NEW ZEALAND DISTRICT, No. 3.

The Catholic Community is earnestly requested to support this excellent Organisation, for it inculcates a love of Holy Faith and Patriotism in addition to the unsurpassed benefits and privileges of Membership.

The Entrance Fees are from 5s to £4, according to age at time of Admission.

Sick Benefits 20s per week for 26 weeks, 15s per week for the next 13 weeks, and 10s a week for the following 13 weeks. In case of a further continuance of his illness a member of Seven Years' Standing previous to the commencement of such illness will be allowed 5s per week as superannuation during incapacity.

Funeral Allowance, £20 at the death of a Member, and £10 at the death of a Member's Wife.

In addition to the foregoing provision is made for the admission of Honorary Members, Reduced Benefit Members, and the establishment of Sisters' Branches and Juvenile Contingents. Full information may be obtained from Local Branch Officers or direct from the District Secretary.

The District Officers are anxious to open New Branches, and will give all possible assistance and information to applicants Branches being established in the various centres throughout the Colonies an invaluable measure of reciprocity obtains.

W. KANE,
District Secretary,
Auckland