

INTERCOLONIAL.

The inmates of the Catholic Orphanage, Goulburn, have erected a marble monument to the late Mrs De Lauret, inscribed 'From the Orphans to their Benefactress.'

The *Freeman's Journal* reports that the Rev. Brother Urban, Provincial of the Marist Brothers, who took ill recently while superintending the Retreat of the Marist Brothers in New Zealand, has now considerably recovered from his indisposition.

Mr. E. W. O'Sullivan, Minister of Public Works in New South Wales, was on St. Patrick's Day, in Sydney, presented with a three-quarter length oil painting of himself by a number of gentlemen who had subscribed towards the cost, as a birthday gift.

The Rev. Father Cain, of Charlton, who some weeks ago met with an accident, in which his buggy was smashed to pieces, has been presented with a purse of sovereigns, subscribed by his Charlton friends, to enable him to make good his loss.

The formal opening of a new Catholic Ladies College, East Melbourne, which is to be conducted by the Sisters of Charity, took place on March 20 in the presence of his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, and a large gathering of clergy and prominent public men.

The Rev. Father Ginisty, S.M., has returned from Gladstone and is now in charge of the parish of Villa Maria, Hunter's Hill. During the short term of Father Ginisty's ministration in Gladstone he won the devotion of the people, and he accomplished a great deal of work in the town and district.

Mr. W. J. Denny, M.P., of South Australia (says the *Catholic Press*), is one of the young Irish-Australians who will be heard of in the Commonwealth in the near future. Although still in the thirties he succeeded Mr. Kingston some two years ago as member for West Adelaide. He edits and manages the *Southern Cross*, which has paid an annual dividend of 10 per cent. for many years, and he holds advisory positions on several boards. A Liberal in politics he is considered by the Conservative press as certain to head the poll in the new district of Adelaide, which comprises 20,000 electors.

As soon as it became known that the Rev. Father Barlow, P.P., of St. Nicholas Church, Penrith, intended taking a trip to Europe, it was arranged that his departure should be made the occasion of a presentation and send-off. All arrangements having been made, the affair took place in the convent schoolroom on St. Patrick's night—a most fitting time. Dinner was spread in the infants' schoolroom, Father Barlow being supported by Mr. T. R. Smith, M.L.A., and Rev. Father McDonald, P.P. (Windsor). After the banquet—for such it might fittingly be termed—an adjournment was made to the schoolroom, where a musical programme, arranged by Sister M. Baptista, was gone through. A very pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation to Father Barlow of an illuminated address, and a handsome dressing-case suitably inscribed. Father Barlow is a fellow-traveller with the Rev. Father Cleary.

In the opinion of some of the oldest and most respected of our Irish and Irish-Australian colonists (says the *Advocate*) such a sight as that witnessed inside and outside the Melbourne Town Hall, on St. Patrick's night, 1902, has never been equalled, except, perhaps, on the occasion of the O'Connell centenary. The final meeting of the committee was held at the archiepiscopal Palace, on Tuesday evening, 23rd inst., under the presidency of his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, and amongst those also present was the Very Rev. the Administrator of the Cathedral (Dean Phelan, hon. treasurer). Extreme pleasure and satisfaction was expressed at the result of the concert, socially and financially. The gross receipts amounted to the handsome sum of £230, and, after paying all expenses, £165 3s 2d remained for that most deserving charity, the Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows.

The following telegram was received by Cardinal Moran from the Hon. C. C. Kingston, Federal Minister of Customs, on the day prior to his Eminence's departure for Rome. It was in answer to Cardinal Moran's invitation to Mr. Kingston to be present at the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations:—'Many thanks for kind invitation which I should have been honored to accept, but I find it will be impossible to be in Sydney on St. Patrick's Day. I must apologise for delay in answering, but for the last 10 days I have been in Adelaide, where I have been called by the sickness of my son who is still very seriously ill. I am thus prevented from being with you, but with all the warmth of the Irish blood that is in me, and of which I am so proud, I thank you for the honor. I wish you all a highly successful gathering. God speed the wish to Irishmen from an Irishman, proud of his Irish father, wife, and blood, and ever grateful to Irishmen both in Australia and elsewhere for many kindnesses.'

Miss Amy Castles (says the *Catholic Press*) had a royal reception when she first touched Australian soil on her return recently. At Fremantle the Acting-Premier and the Ministry of West Australia, the Mayor and Town Clerk of Perth, the Mayor and Town Clerk of Fremantle, and other official and distinguished citizens, boarded the steamer and welcomed the youngest distinguished daughter of the Commonwealth, and then brought her ashore in the Government yacht. She was escorted to the Ministerial carriage and taken to Perth, where she was formally welcomed. It was a joyous event, and there was much speech-making. On her arrival in Melbourne she will be received by the Mayor, and a grand reception will be given in her honor in the Town Hall. She will give three concerts in Melbourne and one in Bendigo, and then she will come on to Sydney, opening here on April 17. Afterwards she will probably make a flying visit to New Zealand, giving six concerts there.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- April 13, Sunday.—Second Sunday after Easter.
 " 14, Monday.—St. Justin, Martyr.
 " 15, Tuesday.—St. John Damascene, Confessor and Doctor.
 " 16, Wednesday.—St. Benedict Joseph Labré, Confessor.
 " 17, Thursday.—St. Anicetus, Pope and Martyr.
 " 18, Friday.—St. Isidore, Bishop, Confessor and Doctor.
 " 19, Saturday.—St. Leo IX., Pope and Confessor.

ST. JOHN DAMASCENE.

St. John Damascene, 'the last of the Fathers of the Church,' was born towards the end of the seventh century at Damascus, from which city he received the surname 'Damascene.' By the Saracens he was called 'Mansur,' and on account of his eloquence was surnamed 'Chrysorrhoea,' which meant 'gold-streaming.' He received his education from a pious and learned monk named Cosmos, who was taken prisoner and brought to Damascus. Like his father, he held a high office under the Caliphs. His zeal in defending the sacred images against the Iconoclasts exposed him to the resentment and persecution of the Greek Emperor. On the suspicion of a treasonable correspondence he was deprived of his right hand, which, however, was miraculously restored. He resigned his office, distributing his wealth among the poor, and retired into the Laura of St. Sabas, where, after some time, he was ordained priest. He died about the year 754. St. John Damascene has left many works, which, on account of their solid learning and great literary merit, have been held in high esteem in both the Latin and Greek Churches.

ST. BENEDICT JOSEPH LABRE, CONFESSOR.

Benedict Joseph Labré was a native of Amettes in the diocese of Boulogne, and was the son of respectable people who brought up their family virtuously and religiously. The early piety of Benedict induced his father to place him at the age of 12 under the care of his uncle, who was then parish priest of Erin. After studying for about four years with great industry and success, Benedict began to realise that he had no vocation to the priesthood, while on the other hand he felt a strong attraction to the solitude and austerities of the cloister. To bury himself in the monastery of La Trappe, where the severe rule of the Cistercian Order is observed, became the object of his secret ambition. Meanwhile his uncle was carried off by a dangerous epidemic which he contracted in ministering to the wants of his sick parishioners. Soon afterwards Benedict, who with great devotion had shared his charitable labors, quitted the village of Erin and returned to his home. Benedict at last received the reluctant permission of his parents to enter the monastery of La Trappe. Upon his arrival there he found that his youth and emaciated appearance presented an insurmountable barrier to his reception. He accordingly retraced his steps to his native village. An application to the Carthusians met with better success, but after six weeks he was dismissed by the Prior as unfitted to the Order, owing to the state of spiritual desolation with which it pleased God at that time to visit him. A similar result followed his admission to the Cistercian monastery, where he remained for six months in a state of bodily weakness and spiritual languor.

After bidding a final adieu to his parents by letter, Benedict, moved by the spirit of God, entered upon a course of pilgrimages to the celebrated sanctuaries of Italy, which he continued for 13 years up to the time of his death. After 13 years spent in this painful manner of life, Benedict one morning, after leaving his favorite Church of Sancta Maria fei Monti, where he had spent six hours in prayer, was found fainting in the public street, and was carried into a neighboring house. Having received Extreme Unction he remained unconscious until evening, when he calmly expired on Wednesday in Holy Week, April 16, A.D. 1783, at the age of 35.

ST. ANICETUS, POPE AND MARTYR.

St. Anicetus was Pope from 157 to 168. He was a Syrian by birth, and suffered martyrdom under Marcus Aurelius. He was visited at Rome by St. Polycarp of Smyrna. These two saints had some dispute in regard to the Feast of Easter, but the discussion did not alter their friendship.

ST. ISIDORE, BISHOP, CONFESSOR AND DOCTOR.

St. Isidore, who was born at Carthage in the South of Spain about the middle of the sixth century, belonged to a most holy family, his two brothers, Leander and Fulgentius, and his sister, Florentina, being all numbered among the saints. From his youth he was distinguished for virtue and learning, and having embraced the ecclesiastical state, devoted himself with his brother Leander to the conversion of the Visigoths. This great work he had the happiness of seeing perfectly accomplished before the close of his apostolic career. Upon the death of his brother St. Leander, Isidore succeeded him in the See of Seville, which he governed for 36 years.

St. Patrick's Day was observed in Launceston, Tasmania, by a banquet held under the auspices of the St. Patrick's Day Anniversary Association. There were about 150 gentlemen present. The Rev. J. O'Mahony, president of the association, occupied the chair. Among the guests were the Hon. N. Elliot Lewis (Premier), Hon. P. O. Fysh, M.H.R., the Mayor of Launceston, Senator J. H. Keating, Hon. R. S. Scott, M.L.C. The Rev. Father Cleary was also present.

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