

INTERCOLONIAL.

Miss Amy Castles had a brilliant debut in Melbourne last week where she gave three concerts. A Wellington paper says that she is expected in New Zealand early next month.

Mr. Byrne, of Goodna (Queensland), who is over 100 years of age, marched in the procession to the sports ground at Ipswich on St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Benjamin Hoare (of the Melbourne Age) is about to re-enter the marriage state, his fiancée being Miss E. Tuite, a prominent member of the Geelong Children of Mary. Miss Tuite was recently the recipient of some valuable presents from the members of the Sodality.

According to the Cumberland Argus Lieutenant H. Morant, 'one of the Australians shot by court-martial at South Africa for murder (shooting unarmed Boers) was a kind of rouseabout in the Hawkesbury district, and earned a precarious living writing verse and riding horses at shows.'

Very deep sympathy is felt in South Australia with the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston and Mrs. Kingston in the death of their son, Master Kevin Kingston. Both parents were devotedly attached to the boy, and Mr. Kingston left his important duties at the Federal Parliament to spend hours watching at the patient's bedside in the Hospital. The funeral took place on St. Patrick's Day, and after a short ceremony at St. Patrick's Church, the body was interred in the Kingston family vault at West-terrace, Adelaide. Rev. Father McGrath conducted the ceremony at the grave.

Churches, convents, schools are spreading throughout the length and breadth of this State (writes a Melbourne correspondent), no less than in the sister States of the Commonwealth. Week by week some work of this kind is either initiated or the finishing touch is given to it by a member of the Hierarchy or his deputy. Recently the memorial-stone of what will be a handsome brick church was laid by the Right Rev. Dr. Reville, O.S.A., Bishop of Sandhurst, at one of the important centres of the Goulburn Valley—Numurkah. His Lordship was presented with an address at the luncheon, which followed the function. The pastor, Rev. Jas. McCarthy, has been attached to the Bendigo diocese for the past 25 years. He was promoted from Shepparton to Numurkah as pastor.

By the lamented death of the Rev. T. McElligott the Ballarat diocese has sustained a severe loss. Young and enthusiastic to a degree, the deceased clergyman threw himself heart and soul into his work. He labored successfully in several parishes and missions of the diocese ruled by the Right Rev. Dr. Moore. Death found him 'in harness' as pastor of Clunes. Father McElligott, who was a native of County Kerry, Ireland, was in his 38th year. The immediate cause of death was consumption—that fell disease which is, unfortunately, rampant in Australia, no less than in Europe and America. The presence at the obsequies of a large body of his fellow-priests and many of the laity of both sexes testified to the very high respect in which the rev. gentleman was held. Father McElligott was an alumnus of the famous missionary college of All Hallows, Drumcondra, Dublin.

His Grace Archbishop Kelly presided at the final meeting of the Sydney St. Patrick's Day Committee, when the financial results of the recent celebration were announced. The report disclosed the fact that the gross takings on St. Patrick's Day amounted to £1050 13s 2d, and the expenditure £499 2s 10d, leaving a net profit of £551 10s 4d. It was proposed that of this amount £535 should be divided amongst the following seven orphanages in the proportion of £75 each:—St. Vincent's Home for Destitute Boys, Westmead (conducted by the Marist Brothers); St. Joseph's Orphanage for Boys, Kincumber (conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph); St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls, Lane Cove road (conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph); St. Anne's Orphanage for Girls, Liverpool (conducted by the Sisters of Charity); St. Brigid's Orphanage for Girls, Ryde (conducted by the Sisters of Mercy from Parramatta); Industrial Orphan Reformatory for Girls, Manly (conducted by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan); Foundling Hospital, Waitara (conducted by the Sisters of Mercy).

L. J. Brient, late editor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, was a fruit-box maker by trade at Hobart before he took to journalism. When he first wrote for the Press he received 4s a week. On the Telegraph his salary was £1000 a year. He is now in London. Mr Courtney, the Telegraph's powerful leader-writer, was brought up on a farm, and did manual labor for a time in Sydney. He taught himself to write. John Farrell, another leader-writer, has also had a chequered career. He was running a little brewery when he was called to the editorial chair of the Telegraph, some 12 years ago. The third leader-writer on the paper, Mr Taparell, confesses that he was 19 before he had any notion of English grammar. He had been apprenticed to a barber, a blacksmith, a draper, and an auctioneer before he found his way into the office of the Wairarapa Daily Times in this Colony. These men (says the Catholic Press) were turned out of the University of Hard Graft, which is not endowed by Governments, and has no frock-coated professors, yet can claim among its students the most successful men in Australia and in the United States of America.

Mr. P. J. Ryan, late of the Ranfurly Hotel, has become proprietor of the Waterloo Hotel, Caversham, and hopes by strict attention to business to merit a fair share of public patronage. The hotel is situated in a central position, and has excellent accommodation for travellers, having just been renovated and fitted up in the most modern style. Patrons will find the proprietor most obliging, and ever ready to do everything possible to ensure the comfort of boarders....

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- April 20, Sunday.—Third Sunday after Easter. Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph.
 „ 21, Monday.—St. Anselm, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 „ 22, Tuesday.—Saints Soter and Cains, Popes and Martyrs.
 „ 23, Wednesday.—St. George, Martyr.
 „ 24, Thursday.—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr.
 „ 25, Friday.—St. Mark, Evangelist.
 „ 26, Saturday.—Saints Cletus and Marcellinus, Popes and Martyrs.

PATRONAGE OF ST. JOSEPH.

THIS feast was instituted by Pius IX. shortly after his elevation to the pontificate. Later on, in 1870, the same Pontiff declared St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. Few, if any, of the saints, with the exception of the Mother of God, appeal more strongly to our love and veneration than St. Joseph—spouse of the Blessed Virgin and foster-father of our Redeemer. As the Son of God was subject to him on earth, so we believe his intercession to be most efficacious in heaven. St. Thomas of Aquin says of him, 'Some saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage in certain cases with peculiar efficacy; but to St. Joseph is given to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.'

ST. GEORGE, MARTYR.

St. George is honored throughout Christendom as one of the most illustrious martyrs of Jesus Christ. In the reign of the first Christian Emperors numerous churches were erected in his honor, and his tomb in Palestine became a celebrated place of pilgrimage. But his history is involved in great obscurity, as no early records of his life or martyrdom are at present in existence. The following are the traditions concerning him which have been handed down to us by the Greek historians, and which are celebrated in verse by that illustrious saint and poet of the eighth century, St. John Damascene. St. George is said to have been born in Cappadocia, of noble Christian parents. After the death of his father he travelled with his mother in Palestine, of which she was a native. Being strong and robust in body, he embraced the profession of a soldier, and was made a tribune, or colonel, in the army. His courage and fidelity attracted the attention of the Emperor Diocletian, who bestowed upon him marks of special favor. When that prince declared war against the Christian religion, St. George laid aside the signs of his dignity, threw up his commission, and complained to the Emperor of the severity of his bloody edicts. He was immediately cast into prison, and alternate threats and promises were employed to induce him to apostatise. As he continued firm he was put to the torture and tormented with great cruelty, and later on beheaded.

ST. MARK, EVANGELIST.

St. Mark, who was a Jew by birth, was probably one of the converts made by the Apostles after our Lord's Resurrection. He seems to have attached himself to the company of St. Peter, who in his first Epistle written at Rome calls him his son. He composed his Gospel at the request of the Romans, who desired to have set down in writing what they had heard from St. Peter by word of mouth, and he wrote it in the Greek language, which was used at that time in the Sacred Liturgy and was familiar to the people of Rome. Rome was the capital of the world, and St. Peter therefore chose it as the seat of his episcopate. He had already erected his chair at Antioch, which was the chief city of the East. The next city of importance was Alexandria, the capital of Egypt and of Roman Africa, and thither St. Peter sent his disciple Mark to preach the Gospel and rule the flock of Christ.

Upon his arrival in Africa St. Mark labored for some time in the district of Pentapolis and in various parts of Egypt and the adjacent provinces, until, by a particular call from God, he entered the important city of Alexandria. Here he soon established a flourishing church, composed in part of Jewish converts and partly of Gentiles. The rapid progress of the faith stirred up the fury of pagans, whereupon St. Mark, leaving St. Anianus to rule the Church in his absence, quitted the city and returned to Pentapolis. Upon revisiting Alexandria a few years later he found the faithful greatly increased both in number and in fervor. Again, however, the rage of the heathen became excited against the venerable Evangelist, whom they called a magician on account of his many miracles. Having resolved upon his death, they sought him for a long time in vain, for God concealed him from their hands. At length, upon the feast of their idol Seraphis, those who were in search of the holy man discovered him standing at the altar, offering the Adorable Sacrifice of the Mass. Overjoyed at finding him in their hands, they immediately bound him with cords and dragged him by the feet through the streets of the city to a place near the sea full of rocks and precipices. The stones along the way were stained with his blood, and the ground was strewn with pieces of his flesh, but all the while he ceased not to praise and thank God for his sufferings. As he was still alive when evening closed in, they cast him into prison, but next day they recommenced their cruel sport. In the midst of these barbarous torments he happily expired on April 25, A.D. 69, three years after the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul.

STs. CLETUS AND MARCELLINUS, MARTYRS.

St. Cletus, the third Bishop of Rome, suffered martyrdom under Domitian about the year 89. St. Marcellinus occupied the throne of St. Peter during a period of eight years. He died in 304, after having endured many sufferings for the Faith in the cruel persecution of Diocletian.

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