

INTERCOLONIAL.

The Sisters of Mercy of Broken Hill, with the consent of Arch, bishop O'Reilly, are about to form a branch house at Mount Barker, South Australia. A property has been secured, and the nuns will open a high school there in a few weeks.

A Sydney message received on Saturday states that Miss Amy Castle's opening concert in that city was a success. Critics differ in regard to the singer. The *Herald* congratulates her upon her vast progress in singing. The volume of her voice is not so large as it was, but it retains its sweetness, and has gained in evenness, flexibility, and everything that makes for advancement.

The Rev. Father Leahy, who had been stationed at Gundagai for about three and a half years, and who recently took charge of the newly-formed parish of Koorawatha, was honored by the people of Gundagai in the middle of last month. At a large meeting, over which the mayor presided, Father Leahy was presented with a purse of 60 sovereigns and an illuminated address.

A fund has been started in Sydney for the purpose of providing a testimonial to Mr. Victor J. Daley, the author poet, in recognition of his valuable contributions to Australian literature. The committee, which has been formed, explain that 'failing health has rendered it necessary for Mr. Daley to take a sea voyage in obedience to imperative medical advice,' and it is thought that 'the people of the Commonwealth should be afforded an opportunity of substantially showing their appreciation of a genius.'

The *Advocate* reports the death of a distinguished member of the Jesuit Order—the Rev. William Hughes, S.J.—who expired at the House of the Jesuit Fathers, Seven Hills, South Australia, on April 1. The deceased priest, who was one of three brothers, all of whom devoted their lives and talents to the sole service of the Sanctuary, was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in 1841, and, consequently, had entered on the 61st year of his age when death summoned him to his eternal reward. Father Hughes pursued his early theological studies at Maynooth, whence he graduated to that famous seat of learning—Louvain. He entered the Society of Jesus 42 years ago, being then in his 19th year.

A correspondent of the *Catholic Press*, who was a passenger by the Ophir, gives the following particulars of the reception accorded to Cardinal Moran on his arrival in Colombo: 'One of the most enthusiastically successful days I have ever spent has just closed at Colombo. The Archbishop and his Coadjutor and the body of the clergy came off the moment the Ophir anchored in the bay. The signal of his Eminence's arrival was heralded by the bells pealing from all the churches. Immense crowds assisted. The Governor sent his barge, and the Cardinal and the Dean were waited ashore with vice-regal honors. To describe the enthusiasm of his Eminence's landing would be a hopeless task. Somehow he reached the Archbishop's carriage, and ultimately reached the palace. The great business of the day, after his Eminence had visited the cathedral and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, was the laying by his Eminence of the foundation stone of a reunion hall connected with St. Joseph's College. All Ceylon was there. After his Eminence blessed the corner-stone he delivered a stirring address in praise of the splendid achievements in Ceylon of the Oblate Fathers. He took the work in hand to mean the definite breaking down of the greatest curse of these poor peoples—the slavery imposed by the distinction of castes. From this his Eminence referred to the encyclical letter of the Holy Father on the reunion of Christendom, and forecasted and prophesied that the English-speaking colonies of the Empire would lead the van in this great work, as the crown-jewel of the twentieth century.'

A lady visitor, in the course of a letter to the *Western Mail*, gives her impressions of a visit to the New Norcia Mission, Western Australia. She says:—'There are at the present time about 100 natives under the monks' care, and quite one-half of these are children. Babies abound, and when a boy is born the parents prepare a feast, but a girl is received without any fuss or rejoicing. The monks make no difference between the men and the women, although the sexes are kept very strictly apart, and a woman is never seen walking alone to fetch water from the well or stores from the monastery. The women are modest. It was a merry sight to see the girls dancing in their quarters on Christmas Day while one little dark maid played the concertina, and the aged Brother looked on and smiled. In the boys' quarters I found two cripples who can never leave the mission. A schoolmaster assists the Brother with the boys, and I was assured that the three R's are not pressed too much, and the work on the farm is put before lessons, and paid for during the vintage and the harvest. The native love of color is found in the homes, the white-washed walls being festooned with yellow and pink everlasting. The red, white, and blue Government blankets look smart on the beds, and are much appreciated. Mutton seems to be the staple food together with excellent cream. Milk is plentiful, also olive oil, but butter is not eaten by the monks or the natives. One of the largest buildings is set apart for the manufacture of macaroni, and this wholesome food seems to be popular. The monastery garden is full of beautiful fruit trees, and from this place sweet and salted almonds, dried figs, and other delicacies reach the store. All rise with the sun and go to bed at dark. Needless to say there is little or no sickness. The Brothers who have reached their four score years drop off, but the natives enjoy excellent health. It is very touching to see how Bishop Salvado lives in their memory. "Our father," they say, "our father who loved us." The new Superior has no easy place to fill, but he has had some previous experience of native races. Before the American-Spanish war he was for a time in the Philippine Islands. When he and his aged interpreter came to wish me good-bye I felt that I had learned much, and I said *au revoir* to New Norcia conscious that nowhere could I have spent a more profitable Christmas.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- April 27, Sunday.—Fourth Sunday after Easter. St Anastasius I., Pope and Confessor.
 " 28, Monday.—St. Paul of the Cross, Confessor.
 " 29, Tuesday.—St. Peter of Verona, Martyr.
 " 30, Wednesday.—St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin.
 May 1, Thursday.—Saints Philip and James, Apostles.
 " 2, Friday.—St. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 " 3, Saturday.—Finding of the Holy Cross.

ST. ANASTASIUS I., POPE AND CONFESSOR.

St. Anastasius, a Roman by birth, held the Pontifical office from 398 to 401. St. Jerome refers to him in terms of high commendation and declares him to have been 'a man of holy life, endowed with an apostolic solicitude and zeal.'

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS.

St. Paul was born near Genoa, in Italy. From childhood he showed a special devotion to the Passion of Christ. He founded the Congregation of the Passion, the members of which, besides the usual three vows, make a fourth—that they will do their utmost to keep alive in the hearts of the faithful the memory of our Lord's Passion. St. Paul died in Rome in 1775.

ST. PETER OF VERONA, MARTYR.

St. Peter was born at Verona, in Italy. At the age of 15 he was received into the Dominican Order by the great St. Dominic. To a profound humility he joined exceptional talents. He was very successful as a preacher, and in particular brought about the conversion of many Manichaean heretics, a sect which was still very numerous in the neighborhood of Milan. He met his death at the hands of some sectarians who, remaining obstinate in their heresy, were enraged at his successful efforts to propagate the genuine teaching of Christ, A.D. 1252.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN.

St. Catherine was born at Siena, on March 25, 1347, and died at Rome, April 30, 1380. She entered the Dominican Order about 1364. Her spirit, eloquence, austerity, zeal, ecstasies, and revelations soon rendered her name famous. Catherine played an important political rôle. In the war which the united Guelphs and Ghibellines made on Pope Gregory XI., she retained the cities of Arezzo, Lucca, and Siena for the Pope. After that she went to Avignon to see the Sovereign Pontiff, reconciled him with the Florentines, and induced him to return to Rome. She was canonised by Pius II. in 1461.

ST. ATHANASIUS.

St. Athanasius, surnamed the Great, the greatest luminary among the Oriental Doctors, was the defender of the Church against the Arian heresy. He was born at Alexandria, about the year 296, ordained deacon in 319, and was chosen by Alexander, his bishop, to accompany him to the Council of Nice. To his acuteness, learning and eloquence in that Council, was principally owing the condemnation of Arianism. On the death of Alexander in 328, Athanasius became Patriarch of Alexandria, and during 45 years he withstood, often almost alone, the whole brunt of the Arian assault. He stood unmoved against four Roman emperors, was banished five times, was the butt of every wrong and calumny the Arians could devise, and lived in constant peril of death. Firm and unbending in defence of the Catholic faith, he merited the honorable title of 'Father of Orthodoxy.' He closed his stormy life in peace in 373. With few exceptions, the numerous works of St. Athanasius have an apologetical and polemical tenor, having been written in defence of Catholicity against paganism and heresy. His dictation and style are clear, full of deep sense, strength, and solid reasoning. The first of his works are his two discourses *Against the Gentiles* and *On the Incarnation*, which form one work addressed to a convert from heathenism, and which were written before the Arian controversy had broken out. Most of his other works have a direct bearing upon that heresy. St. Athanasius is, however, not the author of the famous Creed bearing his name, as it was compiled in Latin in the fifth or sixth century.

FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS.

St. Helena, having gone to Jerusalem, ordered the destruction of a temple of Venus, built over the tomb of Christ. Then, upon excavating to a great depth, the holy sepulchre, and near it three crosses, also the nails which had pierced our Saviour's body, and the title which had been affixed to His cross, were found. The true cross was recognised by the miracles which it wrought. St. Helena sent a part of the cross to Constantinople and left the other part at Jerusalem, where it was encased in a silver box and preserved in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which had been erected on the spot of the discovery. The Church has consecrated this event by the institution of the feast of the 'Finding of the Holy Cross,' which is celebrated on May 3. Chosroes II., King of Persia, having taken Jerusalem, carried off the relic (614), which was recaptured fourteen years later, under Siroes, his son and successor, by the Emperor Heraclius. Both the Greek and Latin Churches still celebrate this victory, on September 14, by the feast of the 'Exaltation of the Cross.'