

## INTERCOLONIAL.

➤ The N.S.W. Premier, Sir John See, has given half an acre of land for a new convent and grounds at Cumnock, new Molong, New South Wales.

Although owing to his advanced age—nearly 89 years—the Right Rev. Mgr. Rigney's permanent recovery can scarcely be hoped for, we (*Freeman's Journal*) are pleased to be able to state that the venerable prelate has much improved.

The *Advocate's* Bendigo correspondent, writing under date 9th instant, says: 'The news that the resignation of his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Reville, of the Bishopric of Sandhurst, was not accepted by the Pope, was received in Bendigo on Wednesday evening, and was learned with great gratification by all his people. His Lordship has endeared himself to his flock during the many years he has been among them, and when it was heard that he had forwarded his resignation to Rome, universal sorrow was felt. Not only the Catholic community, but the citizens in general, are pleased to know that the Bishop will not sever his connection with the diocese, and all join in wishing that he may continue for many years to guide his people, and carry on his good works for their benefit, and the promotion of religion.'

Senator O'Connor (says the *Catholic Press*) has a quiet humor at times. The other night in the Senate, Senator Neild sought to take him by guile. He quoted the notorious opinion given by Mr R. E. O'Connor, that the seat of government cannot legally be anywhere outside New South Wales. In the first place, Senator Neild asked, did Mr R. E. O'Connor Q.C., give the opinion in question (which he quoted at length). To this Senator O'Connor replied, 'I have no official information on the subject.' The House yelled. The second question was, 'Is the Mr R. E. O'Connor Q.C., identical with Senator R. E. O'Connor, K.C., Vice-President of the Executive Council?' To this the answer of Senator O'Connor was, 'This question involves a physiological problem, upon which experts differ, and upon which I am afraid I cannot give an unbiased opinion.' Again the gentlemen on the benches were convulsed with mirth, and Senator Neild collapsed.

The Rev. Father Masterson, S.J., has left Sydney to join the Jesuit parish at Hawthorne, Victoria. Prior to his departure he was the recipient of a presentation from the clergy of Sydney. The function took place in St. John's College. The presentation, which was made by Mgr. O'Brien on behalf of the priests, consisted of a handsome silver-mounted inkstand and silver-mounted ebony pen, the very best that could be obtained in Sydney. Mgr. O'Brien made a few eloquent remarks, in the course of which he paid a high eulogy to the priestly, social, and scholarly character of Father Masterson, and referred to the appropriate nature of the gifts in view of the signal services performed by his able pen in the interests of truth and social harmony in this country when on a recent occasion both were assailed by calumniators of the Catholic body. The speaker spoke in complimentary terms of the Society of Jesus, of which Father Masterson was so worthy a member. Father Masterson, in response, expressed his happiness in being amongst the priests of the Archdiocese, and his sense of the high compliment they had paid him.

THE Rev. Brother Urban, Provincial of the Marist Brothers in Australasia, whose death was referred to by our Auckland correspondent in our last issue, passed away at St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, Sydney, on Friday, July 11. The deceased, who had led a life of great activity, and accomplished much in the course of that education of the young in at least three continents (says the *Freeman's Journal*), was born in Mayo, Ireland, and received his early education in the Marist Brothers' High School in that town. While there, he had for his fellow student and companion the present illustrious Bishop of Sligo, the Right Rev. Dr. Clancy. When 19 years of age he entered the Order of the Marist Brothers, making his novitiate at their principal house in Scotland. After a successful course of studies, he was appointed to the staff of Brothers at St. Joseph's College, Dumfries, where he showed exceptional capacity for the work to which he had devoted his life. After some years at this place, he was sent to South Africa as Director of St. Joseph's Academy, Capetown. Here, during a residence of seventeen years, he won golden opinions from all with whom he came in contact, his work as Director of the Academy being crowned with extraordinary success. During the latter part of his term he was Visitor to all the South African houses of the Marist Brothers. To the great regret of the clergy, his fellow-religious, and the pupils, he was recalled to France in 1897 to assume the duties of Provincial of the British Isles, which office he discharged with his usual energy and devotedness for the next four and a-half years. Falling into ill-health owing to repeated attacks of influenza, it was deemed advisable to find a warmer climate for the self-sacrificing Provincial, and accordingly he was sent in December, 1901, to Sydney. Here since his arrival he has acted as Provincial of the Order in Australasia. The same activity and earnestness that characterised Brother Urban's career in other continents was also exhibited in Australia. His strength, however, proved unequal to the duties of his high position, and while in New Zealand in January last he became seriously ill. He came back to Sydney, and for a time rallied, but a paralytic stroke which he received in May last entirely incapacitated him from work, and he gradually sank, and passed to his reward on the 11th inst. as stated. Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated by the Rev. Father Muraire, S.M., in St. Joseph's College chapel on Saturday, and about 100 Brothers of the Order accompanied the remains to their last resting-place in Field of Mars Cemetery. The ceremonies at the graveside were performed by the Very Rev. Father Olier, S.M., assisted by the Very Rev. Father Muraire, S.M., Rev. Father Marcel, S.M., and Rev. Father Maher, M.S.H.

## Friends at Court

### CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- August 3, Sunday.—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.
- " 4, Monday.—St. Dominic, Confessor.
- " 5, Tuesday.—Feast of Our Lady of the Snows.
- " 6, Wednesday.—The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- " 7, Thursday.—St. Cajetan, Confessor.
- " 8, Friday.—St. Cyriacus and Companions, Martyrs.
- " 9, Saturday.—St. Emidius, Bishop and Martyr.

#### ST. DOMINIC, CONFESSOR.

St. Dominic, who was born at Calahorra, in Old Castile, was distinguished in his early youth by piety and love of study. Having been ordained a priest, he went, in company with his bishop, to the south of France, where he witnessed the atrocities committed by the Albigenses. The sight of so many ruined souls moved him to devote his life to their conversion. It was then that our saint propagated the use of the holy Rosary, which was revealed to him in a vision by the Blessed Virgin. After spending 10 years in this toilsome mission, St. Dominic, in 1215, founded a new Order, the chief object of which was to furnish to the Church zealous preachers and missionaries for the instruction of the Faithful and the conversion of the heretics. He selected the Rule of St. Augustine for the use of his Order, adding certain statutes, which were borrowed chiefly from those of the Premonstratensians. The habit which he gave to his religious consisted of a white tunic and scapular, with long black mantle, from which latter robe robe was derived their name, 'Black Friars.' Pope Honorius III., in 1216, approved of the new Society under the title of 'Preaching Friars.' The same Pontiff appointed Dominic 'Master of the Sacred Palace,' which office is to this day held by a member of the Order. Also St. Dominic founded an Order for women, to whom he gave the rule of the Friars, and a Tertiary Order for people living in the world. The Order of St. Dominic has contributed to the Church, besides countless saints, three Popes, 60 cardinals, about 150 archbishops, and upwards of 800 bishops.

#### THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD.

The glorious Transfiguration of Our Blessed Lord took place a few months before His Sacred Passion. The scene of this mystery, which was intended to confirm the faith of His Apostles under their coming trials, was probably Mount Thabor, a lofty mountain in Galilee, situated a few miles to the east of Nazareth. 'And after six days,' says the Evangelist, 'Jesus taketh with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain to pray.' These three Apostles, who were afterwards to behold Our Lord sorrowful in the Garden of Gethsemani, were chosen to be the special witnesses of the glory of His Transfiguration. 'And while He prayed He was transfigured before them. And His face did shine as the sun and His garments became shining and exceeding white as snow.' In other words, Jesus laid aside the ordinary appearance of His mortal flesh and assumed by anticipation His glorified Body, revealing to the astonished eyes of His Apostles the glory and splendor which delight the eyes of the heavenly citizens and fill their hearts with an indescribable sweetness and joy.

## Weather - Vanes.

TRAVELLERS who are unaccustomed to the sight, are often amused to see the figure of a cock—or, as is often said in America, a 'rooster'—surmounting the top of church towers or sometimes secular buildings; but the custom had a legitimate origin and meaning, the cock being the symbol of clerical vigilance. Aside from this reason, there was the practical one that the bird had a large tail which turned easily with the wind. From the use of the cock in this manner came the term 'weathercock'; but there are many other objects, natural or otherwise, used for the same purpose.

Many old English churches have the emblems of their patron-saint for a weather-vane; thus St. Peter's has the key, that of St. Lawrence a gridiron, and St. Mildred's a gilt ship in full sail. Bow Church, in Cheapside, London, has for a weather-vane a gilt dragon 11ft. long; and upon the Royal Exchange is a grasshopper of equal length. Some say that this was used because the life of its founder was saved by the chirp of a grasshopper. In a famous prophecy it was foretold that when the dragon of Bow street should meet the grasshopper of the Royal Exchange, London's streets would be deluged with blood. In 1820 these two vanes were sent together to the same stonemason for repairs, but nothing in particular happened.

St. Sepulchre's Church in London has four weather-vanes; and from this came the old saying, 'As hard to reconcile' as the vanes of St. Sepulchre's towers, which pointed four different ways.

THE Sydney Protestant Defence Association, *alias* the Orange Society, has passed a resolution against granting Home Rule to Ireland. Resolutions cost nothing. The Irishmen of Sydney and sympathisers with the Home Rule cause in that city subscribed £700 at the grand demonstration as an earnest of the faith that is in them.