

race could have been brought to a close. As it was, they headed straight for the Octagon and dashed at a furious pace through the iron railing, which gave way before them, and horses and carriage rolled over on the grass-covered slope. The horses were speedily released. One of them was little the worse for his sprint. The other, a handsome animal, had his spine broken, and died in a short time. The carriage, which is a splendid specimen of Mr. Robt'n's work, escaped with comparatively little injury.

On Friday evening, January 15th, a meeting was held in the Christian Brothers' School, for the purpose of taking steps to duly celebrate Ireland's national festival of St. Patrick's Day. On the motion of Father Murphy, the chair was taken by Mr. Coghlan. A due celebration of the day, in general terms, was unanimously carried, on the motion of Mr. Coanor (junior), seconded by Mr. McCormack. At Father Murphy's suggestion Messrs. A. Harris and J. Marlow were appointed to carry out the preparations necessary to ensure the success of the evening concert. The proposal to hold a sports meeting in connection with the St. Patrick's Day festivities was discussed at considerable length. At the request of the chairman, the Rev. H. W. Cleary gave an account of the manner in which such sports meetings were conducted both in the large cities and the smaller towns of Victoria, detailing the varying degrees of success which they had achieved. It was ascertained that, despite many obstacles and difficulties that had arisen, last year's St. Patrick's Day sports had resulted in a fairly substantial profit. On the motion of Rev. J. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Liston, it was eventually decided to hold a sports gathering at a date to be fixed. The following gentlemen were appointed to act on the general committee:—Rev. Fathers Cleary, Murphy, Ryan and Delaney, Messrs. J. Liston, M. Coughlin, H. W. Petre, J. J. Connor, N. Mulligan, Clancey, H. Molloy, N. Bradley, F. Foster, Mulquinn, J. Fitzpatrick, L. Pavelitch, Mr. W. E. Shields, D. J. Falkner, D. O'Mrhone and Magorian. Finance Committee—Messrs. Carolin, Liston, Deehan, James O'Neill, J. J. Connor jun., E. O'Connell, H. McCormack sen., McGory, Rogers, J. O'Neill (Mornington), John Blaney, P. Hally, J. Hally, F. and J. Cantwell, D. W. Woods, J. Murray, C. Columb, and Fitzpatrick.—On Tuesday night the general committee held their weekly meeting, Mr. M. Coughlin occupying the chair. Messrs. H. McCormack junr. and J. O'Connor were appointed secretaries. It was decided to hold an athletic sports meeting on March 19 in the Caledonian Grounds. Messrs. W. E. Shields, A. Harris, J. Marlow and W. Clancey were appointed to draw up a programme and submit it for the approval of the general committee at their next meeting on Thursday the 27th inst. The usual vote of thanks to the chair concluded the business.

### NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, the Countess of Ranfurly, and Captain Alexander (private secretary) had a narrow escape from a serious accident on last Sunday. According to the *Otago Daily Times*, they were driving in a buggy on Sunday afternoon in the neighbourhood of Queenstown, when one of the horses got his leg over the pole. This horse began to kick violently, and this alarmed the other. His Excellency succeeded in stopping them, and Captain Alexander jumped out and held them whilst Lady Ranfurly got down. Lord Ranfurly then alighted and was helping Captain Alexander to unharness the horses, when the pair made a sudden plunge forward, knocked over the Governor, the horses and buggy passing right over him. Fortunately, with the exception of a severe shaking, Lord Ranfurly was uninjured, but it was a most providential escape. Timely assistance in capturing the horses, which had broken away from the buggy, was rendered by the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of Queenstown, who happened to pass shortly after the accident.

On Friday evening, January 7th, at Mr. Pain's residence, Westport, the Rev. Father Walsh, on behalf of the choir, presented Mr. A. P. O'Leary with a silver-mounted walking-stick as a mark of esteem, for the efficient manner in which he had carried out the duties of choirmaster during the past year. Mr. O'Leary suitably returned thanks.

The half-yearly meeting of the Blenheim branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held at lodge-room on Tuesday, January 11, when the following officers were elected:—President, Bro. T. Keating; vice-president, Bro. Joseph Morrison; warden, Bro. M. Lydon; guardian, Bro. M. Desmond; treasurer, Bro. P. Meehan; sick visitors, Bros. P. Meehan and M. Lydon; auditors, Bro. A. Curry and F. E. Morrison; delegate, Bro. A. Curry; secretary, Bro. T. O'Leary. Bro. A. Curry, P.P., installed the new officers into office. The Sports Committee of the above Society then transacted some important business. Several important alterations were made in the programme for the St. Patrick's Day Sports. The committee, who intend keeping pace with the times, have included several

cycling races in their programme. A successful gathering may be confidently looked forward to.

DURING the week we have received from the following parcels of stamps for Father Kreymborg's mission:—Annie Dougherty (Gimmerburn), Marie Bournique (Ashburton), Mrs. M. Sherlock (Waimangaroa), and R. Wilson (Dunedin).

THE bush fires in the North have done a considerable amount of damage, especially in the Pahiataua, Feilding, and Woodville districts, where many of the settlers are practically ruined. From latest reports, steady rain has been falling, and the danger is now over. The whole coast line from Wanganui to Wellington has been one mass of flames, but fortunately the recent rain has stopped their progress. In Canterbury, also, destructive grass fires have taken place, and many settlers have lost considerably by them.

We beg to direct attention to the announcement made in our advertising columns that St. Patrick's College, Wellington, will be opened on Saturday, February 5, and that class-work is to be resumed on the following Monday.

### INTERCOLONIAL.

We notice with pleasure that our esteemed Catholic contemporary, the *Southern Cross*, of Adelaide, has appeared in a permanently enlarged form. Two extra pages of interesting reading matter have been added, and the paper is now an attractive looking weekly publication of sixteen pages. The editor contrives to place before his readers a good variety of wholesome and interesting reading. We congratulate the *Southern Cross* on the evidence of increased prosperity which the new departure betokens, and are glad to hope that it indicates a brighter time ahead for Catholic journalism in the Australasian colonies generally. "So mote it be."

The colony of Victoria, and the archdiocese of Melbourne in particular, have sustained a severe loss in the departure to Ireland of the learned and patriotic Rev. Philip O'Doherty, M.R.I.A., familiarly known to a wide circle of admirers by the affectionate title of "Father Phil." Father O'Doherty is a veritable cyclopaedia of information on books, while his zeal, his charity, his complete unselfishness, and his devotion to his friends won him a host of admirers, to whom his departure will be a heavy blow. The Melbourne *Advocate* says of Father O'Doherty:—"To the regret of the many friends the rev. gentleman has made in this colony, the Rev. P. O'Doherty, M.R.I.A., is about to return to his mission in Ireland at the wish of the Bishop of Derry, to whose diocese our departing visitor belongs. The object of Fr. O'Doherty's visit to this warmer clime was to obtain relief from a throat affection from which he has long suffered. The change has been of some benefit to him, but it has not, we regret, effected that complete cure which was anticipated from it. The clerical friends and admirers of the rev. gentleman intend, before his departure, to present him with some mark of their appreciation of the services he has rendered to the causes of religion and Irish Nationality since his arrival in Australia. The learning and ability displayed by him in defending the teachings of our holy Church should, in their opinion, secure for him the deepest gratitude of the Catholic community, whilst Irishmen should never forget that, during his comparatively short stay amongst us, he has done an immense deal, both by voice and pen, to raise the tone and strengthen the claims of Irish patriotism."

The late Mrs. Margaret Whelan, of Redfern, by her will has left the following bequests:—St. Benedict's Schools, £1,000; the Little Sisters of the Poor, £130; St. Joseph's Providence Home, £100; St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kincumber, £100; St. Martha's Industrial Home, £100; St. Patrick's College, Manly, £100; St. Benedict's High Altar, £100; St. Mary's Building Fund, £100; Lewisham Hospital Building Fund, £100; St. Vincent's Hospital, £50; St. Aloysius' Home for Boys, £50; St. Benedict's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society, £30.

It will interest our readers to learn that the new series of reading books for the Catholic schools of Australasia are being pushed forward rapidly by the publishers, Messrs. Benzigen Bros. (America). The advance sheets are now in the hands of the bishops of the various colonies, and the primer, and first and second book will be in circulation at Easter. The full series will be ready before the close of the year.

THE third test match between Stoddart's cricket team and the Australian eleven was commenced in Adelaide on Friday last, the 14th inst. The Australians, winning the toss, decided to bat first, and knocked up the splendid score of 573, within 13 of their record score of 586 made in Sydney against the same eleven in December, 1894. Darling (178), Iredale (84), and Hill (81) being the highest scorers. The Englishman, in their first innings, were all disposed of for 278, Hawyard (70) and Hirst (85), being the only two batsmen to make any stand against the fine bowling of Jones Howell, and Noble. The famous "Rangi" was disposed of for six runs. The Englishmen, who have followed on, have lost four wickets for 161 runs, and, in all probability will sustain an innings defeat.

One day Rowland Hill's friends were contending that H was not a letter, but only an aspiration, or breathing. "It is a letter," said Hill. "And if it isn't, I'm very sorry; for if I have to do without it, I shall be ill all the days of my life."

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