

INTERCOLONIAL

Twenty-eight Sisters of St. John of God reached Perth (W.A.) recently by the German mail steamer 'Zieten.'

The gold produced in New South Wales last year was valued at £1,692,363, an increase of £395,059 compared with the previous year.

The many friends of Archbishop Kelly, of Sydney, will be pleased to hear that his health is quite re-established and that he is at work again with his accustomed energy. He is preaching a series of admirable sermons on 'The Knowledge and Love of Christ.'

During last year the number of indented kanakas who arrived in Queensland totalled 1037. The departures numbered 1097. The total number now in Queensland is 8308. After 31st December, 1906, the deportation of those then remaining will commence.

The 'W.A. Record' of January 2 publishes photograph blocks of the fearful ruin wrought by a cyclone at Boulder. Two of them depict the ruin of the local Catholic church, and in one of the pictures a statue of the Blessed Virgin is seen intact upon its pedestal amidst a tangle of fallen beams and twisted iron.

The Catholic people of Bendigo are preparing an enthusiastic welcome home to their Bishop (Right Rev. Dr. Reville, O.S.A.), who, with the Ven. Archdeacon Davy, V.G., recently visited Jellet (Belgium), where a young Bendigoman (Mr. Denis J. Mitchell) is studying at the Redemptorist House, and will shortly be ordained a member of that famous missionary Order. Dr. Reville delivered a learned address in French 'On the Resources of the Commonwealth.' Dr. Reville will return during the first week of March next.

The Catholic people of Footscray, Melbourne, and leading citiz'ns filled the local Royal Hall recently on the occasion of a presentation of an illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns to the Rev. P. Boyle, who, for five years, has been associated with the Rev. J. Manly in that very Irish and Catholic suburb. The rev. gentleman has been transferred to Carlton by his Grace the Archbishop. The Mayor (Councillor W. Toohey) presided. There were many of the recipient's brother priests and representative public men also present.

By the R.M.S. 'Ormuz,' which reached Melbourne on January 13, the Bishop of Goulburn (Most Rev. Dr. Gallagher) and the Bishop of Rockhampton (Q.) (the Most Rev. Dr. Higgins), were passengers. Accompanying the prelates were the Very Rev. Dean Slattery and the Rev. H. J. Barry (Sydney). The distinguished party was met at the pier by the Rev. L. Martin, representing his Grace the Archbishop, and were driven to the Archiepiscopal Palace, where their Lordships were guests till the following day, when they left for Sydney, en route to their respective dioceses. The most rev. prelates have made an extended visit to the Eternal City, Ireland, and America, and have been absent about a year.

A sum of over £220,000 has already been expended on St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. A debt of only £11,000 still remains upon that noble pile, and steps are being taken to wipe it off. It is the desire of Cardinal Moran that St. Mary's should be solemnly consecrated in 1905. Before the end of next year all the Bishops of Australia will be assembled in Sydney for the third National Synod, and it would (says the 'Catholic Press') be a grand opportunity to consecrate the Cathedral. This, however, cannot be done as long as any debt remains upon it. Movements have been started in every parish to form local committees to make arrangements for a Jubilee Cathedral Fair, to be held in September next, each of which will carry out its programme on the same lines as if the Fair were being held for the requirements of its own particular district, so that the energies of the people will be combined to attain one grand purpose. It is the intention of the Cardinal to visit each committee, either when they hold their first meeting or at some subsequent gathering, and already several meetings have been arranged. As soon as local committees have been formed in all the city and suburban parishes his Eminence will call a meeting of their representatives—say the president and secretary of each—who will become members of the general committee, to organise arrangements connected with the internal workings of the Fair. A general meeting of the clergy and the laity will also be held with a view to forming a general committee and an executive council, which will be charged with the whole of the general management.

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Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- January 31, Sunday.—Septuagesima Sunday.
February 1, Monday.—St. Brigid, Patroness of Ireland, Virgin.
" 2, Tuesday.—Purification of the Blessed Virgin.
" 3, Wednesday.—St. Denis, Pope and Confessor.
" 4, Thursday.—St. Andrew Corsini, Bishop and Confessor.
" 5, Friday.—St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr.
" 6, Saturday.—St. Hyacintha de' Mariscotti, Virgin.

Septuagesima Sunday.

Septuagesima Sunday is so called from the Latin word 'septuagesima,' which means 'the seventieth.' It is the third Sunday before Lent, and is called 'septuagesima' because it is, in round numbers, seventy days before Easter.

St. Brigid, Virgin.

St. Brigid, whose name is frequently, though incorrectly, spelled Bridget, is the patron saint of Ireland. She was born in 453, and according to an ancient Irish account of her life, was born at Fochart (now Faugher). Her father's name was Dubhtach. She was foundress and abbess of several convents, the most celebrated of which was that of Kildare ('The Church of the Oak'), which was erected in the year 490. She died in 523.

The Purification.

This is a festival observed in the Catholic Church in commemoration of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, according to the Jewish ceremonial, forty days after the birth of Christ. It is also called 'Candlemas' (that is 'Candle Mass') on account of the blessing of wax tapers which are carried burning by those who form the procession which takes place afterwards. The symbolical meaning attributed to this ceremony is that the faithful should, with the holy Simeon, recognise in the Infant Jesus the salvation which the Lord had prepared before the face of the people—'A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of the people of Israel' (Luke ii. 31-32) and be admonished by the burning tapers which they are carrying in their hands, that their faith must be fed and augmented by the exercise of good works, through which they are to become a light to shine before men (Matt. v. 14-16).

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr.

St. Agatha was born at Palermo, in Sicily, and was martyred on February 5, 251, at Catanea, during the persecution of Decius. Quintianus, the governor of Sicily, seeing his love for her repudiated, took revenge by accusing her of being a Christian, and caused her to suffer most cruel torments. She was scourged, burned with hot irons, torn with hooks, and then placed on a bed of live coals and glass. From all these tortures St. Agatha went forth triumphant, and finally died in her prison. The inhabitants of Catanea invoke her, especially during an outbreak of Mount Etna.

St. Hyacintha, Virgin.

St. Hyacintha was the daughter of Mariscotti, Count of Vignanello, near Viterbo, Italy. She was born in the year 1585. During the course of an active, laborious, and saintly life, she founded under the name of the Oblates of Mary, two Congregations for the relief of old and infirm people, the poor, and prisoners. She passed to her eternal reward in the year 1640.

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