

INTERCOLONIAL

At the final meeting of the Sydney St. Patrick's Day celebration committee the secretaries read the balance sheet, which was unanimously adopted. The celebration was a great success, the credit balance standing at £528 8s 4d. It was stated that the sum of £65 would be available for each of the Catholic orphanages.

On Sunday, 24th inst., his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop, assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Oher, S.M., Coadjutor-Bishop-Elect of Tonga, will bless and open the new additions to the Villa Maria Church, Hunter's Hill, Sydney, which are now nearing completion. The work, which was rendered necessary by the growing requirements of the district, and which has been undertaken at a cost of some £1200, has been dedicated to the memory of the late Father Muraire, S.M., who for 40 years spent himself in the service of the Catholics of Hunter's Hill.

The Cathedral Hall (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal') is one of the finest, if not the very finest, in Melbourne, and has elicited unstinted praise from all who have seen its massive proportions and elegant interior decoration and up-to-date equipment as a theatre, etc. This work is one more jewel in the imperishable crown which adorns the wonderfully successful administration of his Grace the Archbishop, and easily ranks next to the labors of the Most Rev. prelate in connection with St Patrick's Cathedral, on which his Grace expended £100,000.

The objects of the Victorian Scripture League continue to receive some wholesome criticism from the Melbourne secular press. The 'Age' has given a precis of the evidence taken before the Royal Commission on the state of education in Victoria in 1867. They had every facility for giving religious instruction in the public schools, but on the testimony of their own ministers the work was shamefully neglected. The writer concluded with this pertinent observation:—'The question naturally arises whether the conditions which obtained in the sixties would not repeat themselves to-day if the efforts of the Scripture instruction campaigners were successful.'

St. Mary's new church, now in course of erection at Ipswich, Queensland, is to replace the old St Mary's, which served all the requirements of a parish church for forty years. The foundation stone of the new church was laid by his Grace Archbishop Dunne on October 28, 1900. The dimensions of the new church, which is to seat 3000 people, are pretty colossal. Its length is 140ft by a width of 69ft 10in. The style of architecture is Gothic. When finished St Mary's new church, Ipswich, will be one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in Queensland. The total cost, when finished, of the portions now being built, which is only half the structure when complete, is £25,000.

A conference of State school teachers was held the other day in Sydney with the object of considering the report of the Education Commissioners recently from abroad. Sir Harry Rawson, State Governor, presided, and opened the conference, among others present being Cardinal Moran, the Anglican Primate (Archbishop Smith), and Rev. Dr. Harper (Presbyterian). In the course of an address to the conference his Eminence said:—'Conformable to those principles, religion should not be banished from our schools. Education should unfold to the child at every step his dependence on the Creator, whilst it teaches him his duties towards his parents, towards his country, towards the social order in which he lives, and towards his fellow-citizens. In all this we must bear in mind that religion is not a mere political institution, nor a means to attain some worldly ends. We regard it of itself, and for itself, as a priceless treasure, a Divine gift so precious that we should sacrifice all else to secure it. It is the very fountain source of spiritual life, God ever present to the soul, and communicating Himself to us, so that in this union with God each one may find his noblest aspirations realised and the religious yearnings of his heart fully satisfied. It is in conformity with this spirit of religion that Christ cometh to our schools, and for our Catholic children it becomes a duty and a joy to receive His lessons of heavenly wisdom, to be comforted by His strengthening graces, and to cherish the Divine heritage of blessings which He has given us.'

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Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- April 24, Sunday.—Second Sunday after Easter. Patronage of St. Joseph.
- „ 25, Monday.—St. Mark, Evangelist.
- „ 26, Tuesday.—SS. Cletus and Marcellinus, Popes and Martyrs.
- „ 27, Wednesday.—St. Anastasius I., Pope and Confessor.
- „ 28, Thursday.—St. Paul of the Cross, Confessor.
- „ 29, Friday.—St. Peter, Martyr.
- „ 30, Saturday.—St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin.

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. Mark, Evangelist.

St. Mark, one of the four Evangelists, was probably the same as John Mark, mentioned in the Acts (xii 25). He was the nephew or cousin of St. Barnabas. Mark afterwards became the favorite companion and disciple of St. Peter at Rome. Sent on a mission to Egypt by St. Peter, Mark there founded the Church at Alexandria, which he governed till the year 62, when he appointed Annianus his successor. His life was ended by martyrdom in the year 68. Mark wrote his Gospel in Greek, which, as St. Irenaeus tells us, appeared after the death of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and which he is said to have compiled from the preaching of St. Peter, who also gave it his sanction. Hence, ancient writers call him the 'Interpreter' of that Apostle.

SS Cletus and Marcellinus, Popes and 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.

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, Martyr.

St. Peter was born at Verona, in Italy, and at the age of fifteen entered the Dominican Order. He was an eloquent preacher, and brought about the conversion of many Manichean heretics. His success enraged some sectarians, at whose hands he met his death in 1252.

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin.

St. Catherine was born at Siena on March 25, 1317, 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 role. 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.

For Bronchial Coughs take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. 1s 6d.