

INTERCOLONIAL

The bazaar in aid of the funds of the Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, resulted in a net profit of over £3000.

The promoters of the fund for Messrs. Duggan and Keilly, political prisoners, formerly exiled to West Australia, are providing a cottage for them at Perth pending their return to Ireland. An appeal has been made to Irish-Americans for funds.

The Ven. Archdeacon D'Arcy has presented to the Bathurst Convent of Mercy a statue of the Immaculate Conception. The statue is cast in iron and stands about 5ft high. The work is a masterpiece of art, the features are beautifully cast, while the hanging of the drapery is perfect. The statue was made in France, and arrived in Bathurst a few days ago. It is to be placed in the centre of the garden, and the work in connection with its erection is now being carried out.

Regret is being expressed throughout Ballarat and district, says the 'Age,' at the decision of the Phoenix Foundry Company to close down its works. Altogether no fewer than 349 locomotives have since 1872 been built in the foundry for the Railway Department at a cost of £1,250,000, while between £600,000 and £700,000 has been expended in wages. The plant in the huge establishment is valued at over £30,000. For a long while 400 hands were employed, and their wages totalled over £1600 fortnightly. Latterly, as the work of locomotive construction slackened off, only about 70 hands were engaged.

The Inspector of Catholic schools in the archdiocese of Melbourne reports as follows:—The total number of children who attended our 111 primary schools during the year was 21,714. The total number of teachers were 447, of whom 232 were members of religious Orders. The number taught by religious Orders was 17,012, and by lay teachers 4702. The Sisters of Mercy have 5457 in their schools, the Sisters of Charity, 3066; the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1905; and the Christian Brothers, 1976. The cost of maintenance for last year of the 111 primary schools was £22,450, whilst the new school buildings reached no less a sum than £10,916 16s 1d, and the expenditure on alterations, repairs, etc., was £1669 15s 9d, making a grand total of £35,036 11s 10d.

At a conversazione tendered to the stallholders at the bazaar in aid of the funds of the Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, his Grace the Archbishop said he was asked what he expected the result of the bazaar to be, and replied about £3000. It was highly satisfactory to find that, after paying expenses, that result had been achieved. He sincerely thanked all who had taken part in the bazaar, and helped to gain such a magnificent result. During the past two years the sum of £20,000 had been expended on the hall, club rooms, and the primary school. He had paid a considerable portion of that himself. Of the total £14,000 had now been paid off, and only £6000 remained due. No public appeal would be made to meet the interest on that sum.

In the course of an address at the distribution of prizes to the students of Riverview College, Sydney, Archbishop Kelly, referring to the importance of history and science, said there was a difficulty about these, but as a Catholic, he was not afraid of the truth, but they must guard against falsehood and malice. They heard from real historians how difficult it was to write reliable history. He mentioned Mr. Lecky to show that a historian must be a man of research, discernment, of loyalty to truth, and high principle. He must be neutralised as far as party went in order to write accurate history. Catholics were not afraid of history. There were at the Vatican valuable archives thrown open by Leo XIII. to the students of the world. History in the spirit of bias was dangerous, poisonous. He had been accused of calling the system of popular instruction in this State poisonous. He had never called that system poisonous. He had said of instruction as given in Ireland that it was poisonous. He now said: 'Give us no history rather than biased history.' Some time ago, speaking on the Papacy, he had claimed that the credit of achieving Magna Charta was due to the Papacy. Some time later a letter signed 'Civis' appeared in the press contradicting that statement. As the letter appeared to be written in a spirit of contention he did not reply to it. But the Magna Charta on the statute book of England was that given not by Pope Innocent of King John's time, as referred to by 'Civis,' but was that signed by the Papal Legate of his successor, Honorius III. That just showed how history could be miswritten, and miswritten history was the bane of students.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- December 25, Sunday.—Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord.
 „ 26, Monday.—St. Stephen, the first Martyr.
 „ 27, Tuesday.—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.
 „ 28, Wednesday.—The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.
 „ 29, Thursday.—St. Thomas, Bishop and Martyr.
 „ 30, Friday.—St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow.
 „ 31, Saturday.—St. Sylvester I., Pope and Confessor.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

To-day the Church rejoices over the birthday of her Divine Founder—the Redeemer of mankind. The time appointed for the entrance of the Son of God into the world having arrived, Mary and Joseph were led by Divine Providence to Bethlehem. Failing to obtain admittance into the inns, they were compelled to take refuge in a grotto, which served as a shelter for cattle. There our Blessed Saviour was born to a life of poverty, humiliation, and suffering. He came to redeem the world, and to draw to Himself the affections of men, and therefore He presented Himself in the most amiable form that can be imagined—that of an innocent, helpless babe.

St. Stephen, the First Martyr.

St. Stephen was one of the seven who were chosen to assist the Apostles in the daily distribution of alms, and who, by the imposition of the Apostles' hands, were raised to the Order of Deacons, and qualified to discharge some of the inferior duties of the sacerdotal office. By his zealous efforts for the propagation of the Gospel, he stirred up the hatred of some of the Jews, who stoned him to death. He thus had the honor of being the first among Christ's disciples to seal his faith with his blood.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

St. John was the brother of St. James the Greater, and is mentioned in the Gospels as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved.' He was one of those faithful few who stood by the Cross, and it was to him our dying Saviour recommended the care of His mother. After the Ascension St. John remained chiefly in Jerusalem, though he sometimes undertook long and arduous journeys for the purpose of spreading the knowledge of the doctrines and sufferings of Christ. The closing years of his life were spent at Ephesus, where he died about the year 100. He wrote his Gospel to refute the heresies of his time, and is also the author of three Epistles, which form part of the New Testament.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

On this day we commemorate those innocent children whose martyrdom is mentioned by St. Matthew in the second chapter of his Gospel. Herod, wishing to destroy the new-born Saviour, sending, killed all the male children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the borders thereof, from two years old and under.

St. Thomas, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Thomas A'Beckett was born in London in 1117. Having embraced the ecclesiastical state, and given proof of singular ability and fervent piety, he was soon called to occupy very important positions in the Church. In 1157 he was appointed Lord Chancellor of England by King Henry II., and in 1162 was elected Archbishop of Canterbury. Though remarkable for humility and meekness, he did not hesitate to boldly defend the rights of the Church against the unjust attacks of the English king. His firmness cost him his life. He was murdered in his Cathedral by four knights at the instigation of the king, A.D. 1170.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow.

St. Elizabeth was the daughter of the King of Hungary, and the wife of Louis, Landgrave of Thuringia. She was remarkable for her charity, and took a special delight in serving the sick with her own hands. On the death of her husband, St. Elizabeth was driven from her home, and reduced to take shelter with her children in a building that had been used for swine. These and other privations she bore uncomplainingly. She died in 1231, in the twenty-fourth year of her age.