

INTERCOLONIAL

Mr. M. O'Riordan has been elected Mayor of Alexandria for the third year.

The Very Rev. Father M. O'Sullivan, the popular administrator of the Goulburn Cathedral, leaves within a few days for a holiday in Ireland.

The population of the Commonwealth is estimated at 3,985,063. The result of the estimate will be, it is said, to give New South Wales one more representative in the Federal House, and to reduce Victoria's representation by one.

Superintendent Farrell, of the Tasmanian Police Department, nephew of Viscount Gormanston, a former Tasmanian Governor, has resigned his appointment, preparatory to leaving for England, where he has inherited some important estates. He is a cousin of the present Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland.

Sir John Forrest (says the 'Freeman's Journal') is of opinion that we are over-governed, and that 'the burden of 700 legislators was too much for a community of less than 5,000,000 people to carry, and pointed out that much of the work, which they were paid about £200,000 a year to perform, simply had the effect of embarrassing the energies of the people.' Yet the people seem fond of it. Why, Sydney alone, a city of only 500,000 inhabitants, has nearly 600 aldermen trying to govern it in some 50 tin-pot boroughs.

The Rev. Father J. Sharkey, who has been stationed at Tumut for some time past as assistant to the Very Rev. Father J. O'Dwyer, P.P., was recently transferred to Gundagai as curate to the Rev. Father Donovan, P.P. The news of his removal was received with extreme regret. He was farewelled in the various parts of the parish, and the people by their testimony showed the high regard in which he was held. He was presented with a purse of sovereigns and an address at Tumut, and the children of the convent school handed him a gentleman's outfit and an address.

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, was crowded on Sunday evening, February 19, when the oratorio, 'Immaculata,' was reproduced by 400 pupils of the Sisters of Charity, with orchestral accompaniment, as a compliment to Dean Phelan, who was to leave in a few days on a trip to Europe. The oratorio was rendered with fine effect, and Dean Phelan complimented all those who took part on the quality of the music and singing. It was gratifying that the work produced that night was not only the product of Australians, but was sung by Australia's daughters.

Mrs. Elia Mary Verbrugge, of Port Melbourne, widow, who died on January 11, under a will dated October 27, 1890, left estate valued for probate at £2250, including realty £2826, and personally £21. All the pictures and other ornaments she left 'to be placed among the articles for sale at the first bazaar in aid of St. Joseph's Catholic school, Port Melbourne,' and the proceeds of furniture to be given to St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage. After several bequests to friends, and providing for the repair of the family grave and Masses for the repose of her soul, she leaves properties to St. Joseph's Church, Port Melbourne, and the residue of the estate equally between the Little Sisters of the Poor and Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Very Rev. Dean Phelan was given an enthusiastic send-off at the Cathedral Hall (writes a Melbourne correspondent), when some 2000 persons, young and old, crowded the fine building. Since his arrival in Melbourne 16 years ago Dean Phelan has been attached to about half-a-dozen parishes in and around Melbourne, and the gathering that night was largely representative of them all. For the past five years he has been Dean of the Cathedral, and the speeches of the night were for the most part eulogistic of the work he has done there. Mr. D. Slattery, as chairman of the committee which organised the movement presented the Dean with an illuminated address and a framed photograph. On behalf of the Catholic Young Men's Society, with which Dean Phelan has been actively associated for many years, the president, Mr. R. A. Warming, presented an illuminated address. The Hon. N. Fitzgerald, K.S.G., M.L.C., also spoke. Dean Phelan, who was given a very cordial reception, acknowledged the spirit which prompted such a splendid gathering and kindly expression of goodwill. A musical programme of a very entertaining character was given. The general arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. P. Brennan, B.L., hon. secretary. Many clerical and lay friends said good-bye to the Dean on board the 'Mongolia' at Port Melbourne.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- March 12, Sunday.—First Sunday in Lent.
- „ 13, Monday.—St. Ita, Virgin.
- „ 14, Tuesday, St. Cataldus, Bishop and Confessor.
- „ 15, Wednesday.—Ember Day. St. Zachary, Pope and Confessor.
- „ 16, Thursday.—St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Confessor, and Doctor.
- „ 17, Friday.—Ember Day. St. Patrick, Bishop and Confessor.
- „ 18, Saturday.—Ember Day. St. Gabriel, Archangel.

St. Ita, Virgin.

St. Ita is the patroness of Limerick, Ireland. She was born of a princely family in the sixth century in the territory of Deasy, which is comprised in the present county of Waterford. From an early age she consecrated her life to God, and founded a convent in the territory of Hy-Counaill. She passed to her reward on January 15, 570.

St. Cataldus, Bishop and Confessor.

St. Cataldus, the second apostle and patron saint of Taranto, was born in Ireland about the year 615, and whilst a youth was sent to study at the great monastic school of Lismore. Whilst returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, in which he was accompanied by some of his disciples, the vessel was wrecked in the Gulf of Taranto, not far from the city of that name. When the Irish bishop saw this beautiful city given over to pleasure and vice his spirit was moved within him, and in burning language he implored the inhabitants to return to the service of God, whom they had forgotten. It happened at this time that there was no bishop in the city, so the Tarentines besought Cataldus to remain with them, to which request he reluctantly acceded. The saint succeeded in bringing back the inhabitants to the service of God, and Taranto became a Christian city, in reality as well as in name. St. Cataldus died towards the close of the seventh century, and his remains were buried in a marble tomb, which up to this day is preserved in the sacristy of the Cathedral of Taranto.

St. Zachary, Pope and Confessor.

St. Zachary, who was Pope from 741 to 752, was born in Syria. He was a canon regular, Benedictine, successor of Gregory III., became the umpire of princes and sovereigns, succeeded in conciliating the Lombards, and saved the Roman Duchy from their further invasions.

St. Gregory the Great.

St. Gregory I., surnamed the Great, was born at Rome in 540. The pontificate of this Pope (590-604) presents one of the most imposing features in the history of the Church. He adopted the title, 'servus servorum,' which his successors have retained. Though a member of a wealthy family, Gregory, following the call of God, exchanged his costly vesture for the habit of St. Benedict, and relinquished his palace for a cloister. As Pope he was incessantly active in promoting the conversion of the heathen and the welfare of the oppressed people of Italy. He labored for the strict observance of the laws of the Church, for the celebration of religious services in a worthy manner; and, notwithstanding the delicacy of his health and his manifold occupations, he found time to conduct personally the instruction in choral chant, of which he is the author, and to leave to posterity valuable writings in which the classic literature, the profound religious sensitiveness, the learning and the practical sense of their author are beautifully depicted.

St. Patrick, Bishop and Confessor.

The nationality of St. Patrick is much disputed, some naming France, others Scotland, as the place of his birth. When but sixteen years of age he was carried captive into Ireland, where he remained for six years, thus by a remarkable disposition of Divine Providence becoming acquainted with the language and customs of the people whom he was afterwards to evangelise. Having escaped from captivity his one desire was to return to Ireland, bringing with him the blessings of the true Faith to its pagan inhabitants. The desired mission was confided to him by Pope St. Celestine about 432. His labors were crowned with complete success. St. Patrick died about 464, and was buried in Downpatrick.