

MRS. H. ROSSITER, CHRISTCHURCH.

Very general sorrow was felt by a wide circle of friends (writes our Christchurch correspondent) when it became known that Mrs. Rossiter, wife of Mr. H. Rossiter, an old and highly-respected resident of Canterbury, had passed away on Sunday, September 30. Mr. and Mrs. Rossiter, after leaving their native town of Truro, Cornwall, England, came out to Sydney. In 1866 they arrived in Lyttelton, moving shortly afterwards to Christchurch, where they have resided ever since. The deceased lady was of a very quiet and unassuming disposition, and was greatly beloved by all who know her. Mrs. Rossiter was attended in her last illness by the Rev. Father Marnane, and she died in the parlour of the Rectory of the Church. A *Requiem* Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday last for the repose of her soul, followed by the funeral ceremony, which was conducted by the Rev. Father Marnane, who also officiated at the grave. Appropriate music was rendered at the Mass by the choir, of which one of the deceased lady's sons, Mr. Harry Rossiter, is conductor. There are two other sons (one of whom, Mr. Walter Rossiter, is in business in Dunedin), and five daughters (four of whom are married) to mourn their loss. —R.I.P.

INTERCOLONIAL.

A design has been selected for a monument, costing £85, for erection over the grave of the late Very Rev. Father Ryan in the West Tamworth cemetery.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood accompanied the Right Rev. Dr. Higgins to Townsville a few days after the close of the Catholic Congress. His Grace was to assist at the laying of the foundation-stone of a new church at Townsville.

After Pontifical High Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on September 16, the musical conductor, Mr. Delany, was presented by his Eminence Cardinal Moran with a handsome gold watch in recognition of his services in connection with the cathedral festival. Mr. Delany, it is interesting to note, also conducted the music at the opening of the cathedral in 1882.

The death of the Rev. P. Mulligan, of Townsville, is reported. He was accidentally drowned while bathing. The funeral, which took place on September 22, was very largely attended, including a body of the Permanent Military Force under Major Hooper. The burial service was read by the Very Rev. Father Walsh. Father Mulligan was attached to the diocese of Bathurst before he went to Queensland.

Since the Sisters of Mercy have taken charge of St. Mary's Catholic School, Seymour (says the *Seymour Express*), the parents of the scholars have been so pleased with their methods of teaching that the attendance has nearly quadrupled. When the Sisters entered upon their charge the attendance was about 40, and it is now over 100. Naturally the school is therefore overcrowded. The pressure has been so great upon the accommodation, indeed, that some 30 infants are now being instructed in the sacristy of the church.

Archbishop Carr, in the course of a sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday last, opposed the recommendation of the Religious Commission on Bible reading in schools. He could not now hope that suitable lessons could be drawn up by a heterogeneous commission for Catholic and non-Catholic children. The lessons proposed were as Protestant as possible, and suggested for proselytising purposes, therefore the Archbishop urged that Catholics should not be subjected to new and grievous oppression.

The announcement of the departure of Father O'Reilly for Bathurst (says the *Melbourne Tribune*) was received with extreme regret by his many friends. During his residence in Melbourne the rev. gentleman has endeared himself to all with whom he has come in contact by his kindly and genial manner. As a priest and preacher, Father O'Reilly is in the foremost rank, but it is not alone in his priestly functions that the rev. gentleman has earned such a deservedly high reputation. As a writer his abilities are of a very high order. His work in connection with Catholic journalism in this colony will not soon be forgotten. To him the *Austral Light* is deeply indebted for the great success that it has achieved. Father O'Reilly has suffered of late from bronchial attacks, and his superiors have removed him to Bathurst.

The Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of Jesus and Vicar Apostolic of Cooktown, North Queensland, occupied the pulpit of the Augustinian Church, Thomas street, Dublin, recently. His Lordship, who has the written permission of his Eminence Cardinal Ledochowski, Prefect of the Propaganda, to appeal to the charitable public on behalf of his Vicariate, gave a touching description of the state of affairs in that distant territory, which, he said, is larger than England, Scotland, and Ireland combined. When poverty set in it was impossible to collect in the Vicariate sufficient funds to pay even the interest on the large debt of £8000 that had been contracted. He had collected £1000 from scattered friends, and hoped to make an appeal for funds in America later on. His Lordship's appeal was generously responded to by the large congregation that filled the spacious church.

On Sunday, September 16, the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney received many congratulations on having reached his 70th year. After the ceremonies in St. Mary's Cathedral, his Eminence entertained a large company at dinner in St. Patrick's College, Manly. The party went to Manly by a special steamer. On arrival at the college the students and professors presented the Cardinal with a beautiful address. At the dinner brief speeches were made by his Eminence and the visiting prelates and clergy. Judge Reel, of Queensland, was one of the speakers on behalf of the laity and Mr.

Martin Kennedy another Alderman Thomas Hughes, Mr. J. W. Street (the Sydney lay secretaries), and Dr. Kenny, of Melbourne, spoke on behalf of the officials of the Australasian Catholic Congress.

The Carmelite Fathers have issued an appeal for subscriptions to enable them to pay off the debt on their beautiful Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, South Melbourne. Through no fault of their own, nor for want of strenuous exertions on their part and on that of their friends, the Fathers find themselves burdened with a debt of £5912 which, however, the National Bank has agreed to reduce to £6000 on condition of £2000 being paid off within a fixed period. In addition to this liberal concession, remission of interest has been promised for three years to encourage subscribers, so that every penny collected may be devoted to reduction of the principal. In writing to the Very Prior Kelly some time ago his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne said:—Your mission at Port Melbourne, without the least fault or neglect on your part, is burdened with a very heavy debt. You are about to appeal to the clergy and people of the Archdiocese to help you to discharge the debt, at least in part, and to preserve untarnished both personal and corporate honor. I wish you every success in your appeal and I recommend it to the generosity of the faithful.

In the course of a sermon delivered at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, his Grace the Archbishop, speaking of the Catholic Congress, said that one of the things that particularly struck him was the contrast between the youth of the Church in Australia and the antiquity of the ceremonial in connection with the dedication. This was the first gathering of the kind that had been held in Australasia, but the Eucharistic Congress held annually on the Continent and those of the different great cities of America afforded a parallel. About 60 papers were read, including contributions from England, Ireland, and the Continent, and he believed that nothing was more remarked upon by visitors from other denominations than the variety of the subjects dealt with. One of the most important results of the Congress was a determination to found in Australia a Catholic Truth Society on the lines of that which had already been blessed with the happiest results in England, and which inspired only last year the foundation of a similar society in Ireland. One of its main objects would be to provide suitable literature for members of the Church, and particularly for the education of the young. It was also desirable to foster a higher conception of pictorial art, and to take decisive steps for the improvement of the various religious confraternities. The Archbishop concluded by saying that the manner in which Victoria had contributed to the success of the Congress was a matter of general favorable comment, and had stimulated New South Wales to a degree of interest that would not otherwise have been felt.

General regret was felt in Catholic circles in Sydney when it became known that Lieutenant H. H. McMahon, of Willoughby, had met his death by a fall from a railway bridge. The deceased, who was in his 26th year, held a lieutenant's commission in the Irish Rifles, and was in charge of the guard of honor supplied to receive the vice-regal party at the recent dedication of St. Mary's. It appears that Mr. McMahon, who had attended the Randwick rifle range on Saturday for practice, was overcarried on his return trip from Sydney to Willoughby, and whilst endeavouring to cross the new railway bridge on his way back fell between the sleepers on to the road beneath. His skull was fractured, and death must have been instantaneous. The late Mr. McMahon was a popular figure wherever he went, and besides being well known in social and military circles, had a high reputation as an athlete, both at St. Ignatius' College, Riverview, and later as wicket-keeper for the University and North Sydney Cricket Clubs. A military funeral was accorded the deceased, his Eminence the Cardinal and the Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland, being present at the *Requiem* Mass at St. Mary's. The coffin was borne from the Cathedral to the gun carriage by the officers of the Irish Rifles. There was a large attendance of military and civilians at the funeral. The Very Rev. Dr. O'Haran celebrated the last rites of the Church, and at the conclusion of the obsequies three volleys were fired over the grave by the comrades of the deceased.

WHAT HE SAW IN MEXICO.

MR. GUERNSEY, a well-known non-Catholic writer, who has been making a study of the people of Mexico, says in a recent issue of the *Boston Herald*—

'People here are too polite to be so disagreeable. The insolent swaggerers of the pavement, the tobacco-spitting brutes of the street corners, and the bad small boys, old in devilry, are not in evidence in the Mexican small town. Even the poorest person you meet answers a salute with the grace of an old Hidalgo.' We cannot forbear repeating the closing paragraph of that letter.—'Governor Rollins, of New Hampshire,' he says, 'would find no lack of religious interest in these little Mexican towns. They compare well in morality, home comfort and happiness, and in every essential of human well-being with small American towns. They lack the aggressive, inquiring spirit of our race and do not share our irreverence. I was struck with some articles in the *Atlantic Monthly* on New England country town life, and it seemed to me that Mexico could make a good showing in comparison. Religion is not decadent here, and there is a general courtesy worth imitating. And yet, we read of the lack of true civilisation in Mexico! Rubbish! That will do to talk to ocean cavalymen, not to men who know Mexico as it really is.'

Mr. F. W. Petro, architect, Dunedin, invites tenders for the construction of a cloister and chapel in brick and stone for the Dominican Priory, Dunedin.—*.*