

were very prominent all through. Whilst Griffin, McGrath, Ford, Ross, and McNamara were the pick of the Southland boys.

The Invercargill Catholic Literary Society entertained the visitors at a social in the evening. Very Rev. Dean Burke presided. Thursday was spent picnicking and on Friday morning the Dunedin lads were accompanied to the station by the many kind friends who left nothing undone to render the Christian Brothers' boys of Dunedin happy during their stay in Invercargill.

INTERCOLONIAL.

Steps will be taken in the near future for the initiation of a movement towards providing Melbourne with a Catholic hall, similar to that which was opened at Ballarat recently.

The Hospice for the Dying, Sydney, under the care of the Sisters of Charity, is nearly completed, as far as the building is concerned, and will be solemnly blessed and opened about the beginning of November. There will be accommodation for between 30 and 40 patients.

The new convent at Beaudesert was consecrated and opened recently by his Grace Archbishop Dunne. There was a large congregation of all denominations present. Out of £1000 (the cost of building), only \$100 debt remains. The organ was presented to the convent by Mr. Jeremiah Dunn, who also gave £100 towards the building fund.

The solemn consecration of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Bendigo, will take place on Sunday, 29th inst. The dedicatory discourse will be delivered by the Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney, and the Archbishops of Melbourne and Adelaide, the Bishops of Sandhurst, Ballarat, and Sale, and the Coadjutor Bishop of Sandhurst, will also be present.

Mrs Ann Shiel, of Picton, New South Wales, has just presented her fellow-Catholics in that district with a handsome new church. The sacred edifice was blessed and opened a few Sundays ago by his Eminence Cardinal Moran. It is proposed to build a new presbytery in connection with the church at a cost of £700. The collection taken up on the occasion was for this purpose, the sum received being about £140.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran speaking recently at the Catholic Guild breakfast put in a plea on behalf of the Catholic newspaper:—'Be sure,' he said, 'and read a Catholic newspaper. In its columns you will find true facts in connection with the Church, faithful reports of Catholic events and Catholic movements, and all the information you need regarding home countries, as well as discussions on every question of the day. Again, I would say, be sure you read it—and be sure you pay for it.'

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 25, there was a very large attendance present at Surry Hills, Sydney, to assist at the opening of the new Good Samaritan School and the laying of the foundation of the convent for the Sisters who will be attached thereto. From an early hour in the afternoon people began to assemble, and by the time his Eminence Cardinal Moran arrived the street on both sides of the church was densely packed, and this notwithstanding a downpour of rain most persevering in its steadiness. The building which was blessed and opened by his Eminence was formerly a Primitive Methodist church. It is a spacious building, consisting of two halls, one being beneath the building, and it is estimated it will accommodate 500 children. At the rear is a residence where the Sisters will stay until the convent is built. The latter will stand on a piece of land which has been purchased by the Sisters of about 50ft frontage and adjoining the school. A statement of affairs was read by the Rev. Father Walsh, who explained that the Sisters had purchased the land on which will be erected the convent for £650. The convent itself will cost £1000. He had purchased the building which his Eminence had come that afternoon to open, together with a residence at the back, for £3000.

The annual report of the Victorian United Irish League has been published. It states: 'Altogether £300 have been sent home to assist Ireland's cause as the result of our first year's work, and though we have fair reason to feel elated at a record which places Victoria easily first among the States of the Commonwealth, yet we realize that the amount mentioned falls far short of the help we could afford the cause if every Irishman in the State joined the League, and gave even a single half-crown per annum as his subscription. A firm reunion of the party having been established, the subject of Home Rule cannot be much longer repressed, and the committee think that the time is opportune when some of the honored leaders of our race—particularly Mr. O'Brien—might be invited to make a tour of these States with the double object of enlightening our people again and arousing the old enthusiasm, and likewise also for the purpose of gathering the munitions of war to carry on the battle at home. The document bears the following signatures:—(Dr.) N. M. O'Donnell, president; J. B. Ronald, M.P., A. E. Hughes, J.P., P. Jagers, vice-presidents; M. O'Sullivan, M. A. McDonald, hon. treasurers; G. M. Prendergast, M.L.A., E. Glennon, hon. secretaries. The total receipts were £757 5s 8d.'

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Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- September 22, Sunday.—Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. Feast of the Seven Dolours of Blessed Virgin Mary.
 " 23, Monday.—St. Linus, Pope and Martyr.
 " 24, Tuesday.—Feast of Our Lady of Mercy.
 " 25, Wednesday.—St. Eustace and Companions, Martyrs.
 " 26, Thursday.—St. Eusebius, Pope and Martyr.
 " 27, Friday.—Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs.
 " 28, Saturday.—St. Wenceslaus, King and Martyr.

THE SEVEN DOLORS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

To drink of that chalice of suffering, which the Redeemer of Mankind drained to the dregs, has fallen to the lot of all the saints, but most of all to the Mother of God. Owing to the closeness of the sacred tie which bound her to her Divine Son, she felt most keenly every danger that threatened Him, and every pang that wrung His Sacred Heart. Her seven sorrows here commemorated were the prophecy of St. Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the child Jesus in the Temple, the carrying of the Cross, the crucifixion, the taking down from the Cross, and the burial of our Lord.

ST. LINUS, POPE AND MARTYR.

St. Linus, the immediate successor of St. Peter, received the martyr's crown after a Pontificate of 12 years.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY.

In the thirteenth century, when the Mediterranean was swept by Moorish pirates, a religious Order was instituted, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the purpose of collecting alms for the relief and ransom of Christian captives, of visiting them in their captivity, and restoring them when possible to their friends and families.

Among the first members of this noble Order was a zealous Englishman named Serapion, who was received into religion by the founder, St. Peter Nolasco. His singular prudence and sanctity caused him to be selected for the important office of Ransomer, and he was sent by his superiors on two occasions to treat with the infidels for the ransom of the captives. His first journey was to the Moorish kingdom of Murcia in the South of Spain, where he succeeded in restoring to liberty 98 Christians. Being afterwards despatched to Algiers, he purchased the freedom of 87 others, but being unable to pay the price in full, he remained in the hands of the Moors according to the common practice of the Order as a hostage for the discharge of the debt. During the interval he employed himself in consoling and encouraging the Christian slaves and prisoners, and preaching the Gospel boldly to the Mahometans, many of whom he converted to the Faith.

The Moorish Governor, enraged at his boldness, ordered him to be cruelly beaten and cast into a dismal dungeon. He afterwards condemned him to be stripped naked and fastened in a barbarous manner to two posts, his body being elevated in the air and his legs crossed. In this painful position he was exposed to all the insults and outrages of the mob, and was finally hacked to pieces with knives and hachets, during which time he never ceased to preach the Name of Jesus and exhort the Christians to constancy and perseverance.

ST. EUSTACE AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS.

St. Eustace, a Roman general, suffered martyrdom together with his wife and two sons, shortly after the beginning of the second century.

ST. EUSEBIUS, POPE AND MARTYR.

St. Eusebius, who succeeded St. Marcellus on the Papal throne, was banished by Maxentius to Sicily, where he died of the hardships inflicted on him.

SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS.

Saints Cosmas and Damian, brothers, were born in Arabia. They labored as Christian physicians, and exercised their art gratuitously. Denounced as Christians, they suffered martyrdom at Eges, in Cilicia, under Diocletian, about the year 286. Their remains were brought to Rome, where a splendid church was dedicated to their memory, and where they are still venerated.

ST. WENCESLAUS, KING AND MARTYR.

St. Wenceslaus, Duke of Bohemia, was remarkable for his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. His zeal for the propagation of the true faith led to his death at the hands of his brother, A.D. 932.

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