

INTERCOLONIAL.

In the diocese of Geraldton (says the *W.A. Record*) the Dominican nuns are well sustaining the world-wide and time-honored renown of their Order as a teaching Order. At the recent exhibition held at Greenough, the pupils of the local convent gained 30 prizes, and at the Geraldton Exhibition they were also successful. First prizes were gained at Geraldton by the students of the college at Dongarra, for painting, wood-carving, pianoforte sight-reading, and solo playing. A concert given by these students on October 16 went off with *ecclat*—the performance throughout being brilliant. The returns received from London of the Trinity College musical examination, held on August 10 by Mr. Charles Edwards at the Greenough centre, show that all the eight candidates presented passed, one gaining honors. All the marks obtained this year by the pupils of the Dominican nuns at both London examinations were high.

In connection with the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, which took place a few Sundays ago, the Archbishop of Melbourne, who preached at the 11 o'clock Mass, referred to the financial position of the Cathedral and the work that had been done since the opening in 1897. The whole of the Cathedral, he said, had been re-tiled, the sanctuary portion had been improved and ornamented, all the chapels had been provided with altars, and the seating accommodation had been increased. All that had been done was paid for, and there was enough money available to meet the cost of the work on hand. Had it not been, the Archbishop went on to say, for the opportune and princely bequest of the late Mr. James Crotty, whose munificence was recorded in a mural tablet in the Cathedral, it would have been impossible to have accomplished all that had been done. Had the whole of that bequest been available for the purpose, the internal decoration of the Cathedral could have been actually completed, but there remained a debt of £4000 on the building itself, which left a balance of £6000 only for internal work. Two of the chapels had, in consequence of the piety and generosity of two ladies, been also decorated, and it was intended to proceed with the four remaining ones, in the hope that some others would imitate the example of these good ladies. These four chapels also required a mosaic paving, and he was not without hope that funds would also be forthcoming to meet that the last work in connection with the internal completion of the Cathedral.

The *Monitor* (Tasmania) records with deep regret the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Noone which occurred on November 11 at Hobart. The deceased priest was one of the pioneers in the Tasmanian mission field. He received his early training at Mount Melleray Abbey, Waterford, and went to All Hallow's College for his ecclesiastical course. He was ordained in 1863, and came out immediately to Tasmania. During his 38 years' missionary labor he built several churches, convents, and schools, in various parts of the colony.

The Very Rev. Dr. O'Haran, 'private secretary to his Eminence Cardinal Moran, has been presented with an address and £8000 to recoup him for the expense in his defence in the Coningham case.

The net profits of the Westmead Fair held in the Sydney Town Hall amount to over £2500. The members of St. Vincent de Paul Society are delighted with the result.

On Tuesday of last week Miss Amy Castles made her debut at her concert in St. James's Hall, London. She was assisted by Miss Ada Croesley and others. His Majesty the King wrote a few days before the concert came off to Sir Andrew Clarke, Agent-General for Victoria, expressing his interest in the first appearance in the world's metropolis of the young Australian singer. The Prince and Princess of Wales accorded their patronage to the concert. In addition to the royal patrons, many leaders of society, such as Lord and Lady Jersey, Lord and Lady Carrington, Lord Beauchamp, were doing their best to interest their friends in the performance. Many persons predicted that a *debut* after only two years' study would be a failure, but M. Bouhy, her distinguished teacher, considered that she might safely demand a London verdict on the quality of her voice. Miss Castles was to fulfil her first public engagement the week following at the Queen's Hall Ballad Concerts, by special invitation of Mr. George Boosey. The *London Times*, commenting on the successful *debut* of Miss Amy Castles, says she is admirably taught, and, if she perseveres, will reach a very high place. Her voice is of beautiful quality, resembling Madame Melba's.

The leaders of the Orange clique (says a Melbourne correspondent) who are ceaseless in their efforts to win favorable recognition from the Victorian public have met with a slight disappointment. They desired to obtain the use of the Melbourne Town Hall for the purpose of holding a "Guy Fawkes" demonstration on November 5, but although some of the corporation officials are said to be in sympathy with this disreputable crowd, the Mayor, Sir Samuel Gillott, is a man of broad and liberal views, and his Worship refused the use of the hall. The Orangemen had to seek elsewhere for a platform upon which to spout their venomous tirade against Catholic citizens. It is true that these social pests are not now taken seriously, and since the prosecution of some of the leaders a few years ago for a breach of the provisions of the Unlawful Assemblies Act at Brunswick they have been looked upon with contempt by the public generally. A few fifth-rate parsons orate occasionally in true Orange style in little suburban conventicles, but these are merely bidding for a little cheap notoriety, which it would be impossible to obtain by ordinary means.

As a result of the recent census, there will be six additional members in the new Parliament. The Representation Commissioners are to meet during the recess to arrange the boundaries.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

- December 8, Sunday.—Second Sunday in Advent. Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- " 9, Monday.—St. Eutychianus, Pope and Martyr.
- " 10, Tuesday.—Octave of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.
- " 11, Wednesday.—St. Damasus, Pope and Confessor.
- " 12, Thursday.—St. Melchisedech, Pope and Martyr.
- " 13, Friday.—St. Lucia, Virgin and Martyr.
- " 14, Saturday.—Translation of the Holy House of Loreto.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

By the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary we understand that the Blessed Virgin, from the first moment when her soul was united to her body, was preserved from original sin and exempted from every stain by a Divine privilege, in view of the future merits of Jesus Christ.

ST. EUTYCHIANUS, POPE AND MARTYR.

St. Eutychianus was an Etruscan by birth, and was Pope from 275 to 285. He suffered martyrdom under Numerian.

ST. DAMASUS, POPE AND CONFESSOR.

St. Damasus was Pope from 366 to 384. He was the principal defender of Catholic orthodoxy against Arius and other heretics. He condemned the Macedonian and Apollinarian heresies, and confirmed the decrees of the General Council of Constantinople. He was very solicitous for the preservation of the Catacombs and adorned the sepulchres of many martyrs with epitaphs in verse, which he himself composed. For his secretary he chose St. Jerome, his faithful friend, and induced him to publish a corrected version of the Bible, known as the Latin Vulgate.

ST. MELCHIADES, POPE AND MARTYR.

St. Melchisedech was Pope from 311 to 314. He was born in Africa and presided over the Council of Rome (313) and condemned the Donatists.

ST. LUCIA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR.

St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, was born at Syracuse, Sicily where she was beheaded in the year 303. Of a noble and Christian family, she made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Agatha at Catania, obtained the healing of her mother Eutychia, consecrated her virginity to the Lord, and, accused of being a Christian, she was beheaded.

THE HOLY HOUSE OF LORETO.

Loreto is a city of the province of Ancona, in Italy, chiefly noticeable as the site of the celebrated sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, called the Santa Casa (holy house). The Santa Casa is reported to be the house, or a portion of the house, in which the Blessed Virgin lived at Nazareth, which was the scene of the Annunciation of the Nativity and the residence of Our Lord with His blessed mother and St. Joseph, and which, after the Holy Land had been finally abandoned to the infidels on the failure of the Crusades, is believed to have been miraculously transported, first, May 10, 1291, to Recanati, whence it was finally transferred to its present site. Its name (Lat. *Domus Lauretana*) is derived from Laureta, the lady to whom the site belonged. Although numerous pilgrims resort to this sanctuary, and although indulgences have been attached by Popes Julius II., Sixtus V., and Innocent XII. to the pilgrimages and to the prayers offered at the shrine, yet, the truth of the legend is no part of Catholic belief, and Catholics hold themselves free to examine critically its truth, and to admit or reject it according to the rules of historical evidence. The Church of the Santa Casa stands near the centre of the town, in a piazza which possesses other architectural attractions. The great central door of the church is surmounted by a splendid bronze statue of the Madonna, and in the interior are three magnificent bronze doors filled with bas-reliefs, representing the principal events of Scriptural and ecclesiastical history. The celebrated holy house stands within. It is a small brick house with one door and one window, originally of rude material and construction, but now, from the devotion of successive generations, a marvel of art and costliness. It is entirely encased in white marble, exquisitely sculptured after designs of the most eminent artists. The holy house having been at all times an object of devout veneration, its treasury of votive offerings is one of the richest in the western world.

A very pleasant social function (says the *W. A. Record*) took place recently at the Coolgardie Convent School, when the Very Rev. Dean O'Reilly was presented by his parishioners with a beautifully illuminated address and a massive gold Celtic cross, as a mark of esteem, and on his being raised to the office of Dean of the Eastern Goldfields. There were fully 200 members of the congregation present, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic.

The R.M.S. *Cuzco*, which arrived recently in Melbourne, brought eight priests for Australian dioceses. Rev. J. P. O'Connell for the archdiocese of Melbourne. The Rev. gentleman is a nephew of the Rev. T. J. O'Connell (Tatura). Rev. W. Close and Rev. E. Ryan for the diocese of Ballarat. Father Ryan is a brother to the Rev. M. Ryan, of Woodend. The Revs. T. Crowley, Father Ahern, J. Considine, J. Kelleher, and S. Champion are for N.S.W. and W.A. dioceses.