

INTERCOLONIAL.

Rev. Father McInerney, S.J., in recognition of his services in South Africa, has been gazetted honorary chaplain-captain to the Federal forces.

Mr. C. Regan, of Tamworth, has been honored by his Holiness the Pope, who, in recognition of the services he has rendered the Church, has conferred upon him the golden cross of the first Order of 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice'. The cross and diploma from Rome reached the venerable Bishop of Armidale on Christmas morning, and the investiture will shortly take place. The 'Catholic Press' understands that Mr. Regan is the only layman in the Commonwealth who has been decorated by Leo XIII. with the gold cross of the First Order.

On the occasion of his recent visit to Parramatta his Eminence Cardinal Moran called upon the Right Rev. Monsignor Rigney, of Prospect, who for many months has been in feeble health, mainly the effect of old age. We ('Freeman's Journal') understand that the venerable prelate personally received his Eminence with all the dignity and vivacity he might have exhibited 20 years ago. The Cardinal, who had but recently left the grand old Pontiff of the Vatican, must have been impressed with the intellectual vitality of this purple-robed nonagenarian of his own archdiocese.

The northern transept of St. Mary's Church, Ridge street, North Sydney, has been enriched by a group of beautiful stained-glass windows lately completed by the famous English firm of John Hardman and Co. to the order of the family of the late Mr. Thomas Dalton. The windows not only form an enduring memorial to a deceased parishioner, but add another artistic beauty to a church upon which piety has already expended much taste.

The Sydney 'Catholic Press' gives the following particulars regarding the late Father McEnroe, S.J., whose death was reported in our last issue:—The deceased priest was born in County Cavan, Ireland, on July 21, 1834, and he entered the Society of Jesus on August 9, 1865. Before that date he had been president of St. Patrick's College, in Cavan. Two of his brothers are priests. One is a zealous missionary in America, the other is a distinguished Vincentian Father in Ashfield, N.S.W., who is at present in New Zealand. Father McEnroe came to Australia in 1877.

Miss Amy Castles has booked passages for herself and her younger sister, Dolly, by the F.M.S. Australian, which sails from Melbourne on February 19. She intends to resume her studies at once under her former teacher, Mons. Bouhy, and to give herself very earnestly to work. Miss Castles declares that she owes it to the Australian people as a debt of gratitude that she should strive her best to perfect herself in her art, and she has declined two flattering offers from American managers, and an invitation to tour South Africa in order that she may devote all her time to study under the best masters in Europe.

Those who know the Minister for Lands (Mr. W. P. Crick) intimately (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), know that beneath an affectedly rough exterior he hides a kindly heart, and that he does more charitable acts by stealth than any other man of his profession in the Commonwealth. The Sydney 'Daily Telegraph' tells a story on Tuesday, wherein a small boy was observed in the cell at the Central, and was spotted by Mr. Crick, who was there on professional business. Finding the boy looking miserable in the cell, he inquired what he was in for, and discovered he was locked up for the heinous crime of throwing stones. Mr. Crick then appeared for the defence, the boy was arraigned, the magistrate gave him a lecture and fined him 5s. This was paid by the diminutive culprit's counsel, the King's New South Wales Minister for Lands, and he went his way rejoicing with 3d in addition 'to buy lollies'.

It is gratifying to be able to report (says the 'Freeman's Journal') that the venerable Bishop of Maryland is rapidly recovering from the injury to his foot sustained on the occasion of the harbor reception to the Cardinal. His Lordship has since then been resting at the house of the Vincentian Fathers, his only regret being that he could not be amongst his own people at Christmas. Dr. Murray was so far improved as to be able to celebrate Mass on Christmas Day and each morning since then. Apart from the injury to his foot, his Lordship is in excellent health, and hopes soon to be in his own diocese—although it would be difficult to say which New South Wales diocese is not Dr. Murray's.

A return has been prepared by the New South Wales Census Office, showing the birthplaces of the people of Australia and New Zealand. The native-born Irishmen in Australia are as follows:—New South Wales, 59,915; Victoria, 61,462; Queensland, 37,636; South Australia, 11,245; Western Australia, 9862; Tasmania, 3887; Commonwealth, 184,037; New Zealand, 43,524; Australasia, 227,561. Working these figures out (says the 'Catholic Press') we find that the percentage of native-born Irish to the total population of the respective States are as follows: Queensland, 7.50; New Zealand, 5.63; Western Australia, 5.35; Victoria, 5.12; New South Wales, 4.32; Tasmania, 2.25; Commonwealth of Australia, average 4.9; do, with New Zealand added, 5 per cent. Throughout Australasia there are 965,622 Catholics, an excess of 738,061 over the native-born Irish inhabitants.

Friends at Court

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- January 18, Sunday.—Second Sunday after the Epiphany. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.
- " 19, Monday.—St. Canute.
- " 20, Tuesday.—Saints Fabian and Sebastian, Martyrs.
- " 21, Wednesday.—St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr.
- " 22, Thursday.—Saints Vincent and Anastasius, Martyrs.
- " 23, Friday.—Espousal of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- " 24, Saturday.—St. Timothy, Bishop and Martyr.

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

St. Paul tells us that Our Lord 'humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. For which cause God also hath exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above all names: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.' The object of the Church in instituting the feast, which we celebrate to-day, was to bring before her children the sacredness of the name of Jesus, and to make atonement for the sins of those who use it irreverently.

Saints Fabian and Sebastian, Martyrs.

St. Fabian was Pope from 236 to 250. He was a contemporary of the Emperors Maximian, Gordian, Philip, and Decius. Under the latter's reign he suffered martyrdom. He confirmed the deposition of Privatus, an African bishop, who had been condemned by a synod of 90 bishops at Lambesa in Numidia for many grievous faults. He assigned the seven districts of Rome to seven deacons with as many sub-deacons, who were to assist the notaries in recording the acts of martyrs. To Fabian Origen addressed a letter in defence of his own orthodoxy. An ancient tradition ascribes to this Pope the founding of the seven Gallic Churches of Toulouse, Arles, Tours, Paris, Narbonne, Clermont, and Limoges, to which he is said to have sent respectively Saturninus, Trophimus, Gratianus, Dionysius, Paulus, Astremonius, and Martialus, as missionary bishops.

St. Sebastian, surnamed the 'Defender of the Church,' was born at Narbonne, France. He was captain of the Pretorian Guards under Diocletian, encouraged the martyrs, and was himself put to death for the faith at Rome in 288. He was shot by arrows, and was supposed to be slain, but recovered, and was finally beaten to death with clubs and buried near the Catacombs of St. Calixtus, which later on took the name of the Cemetery of St. Sebastian.

St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr.

St. Agnes is one of the best known of the many martyrs whom the persecutions of the Roman emperors gave to the Church. St. Jerome, quoted by Alban Butler says: 'The tongues and pens of all nations are employed in the praises of this saint, who overcame both the cruelty of the tyrant and the tenderness of her age, and who crowned the glory of chastity with that of martyrdom.' She was but 13 years of age at the time of her glorious death in 304.

Saints Vincent and Anastasius, Martyrs.

These two saints, though commemorated on the same day, suffered at different times and in distant countries. St. Vincent, a deacon, was a native of Spain. After enduring torments that were well-nigh incredible, he died of his wounds at Valencia, A.D. 304.

St. Anastasius, a Persian monk, after having been cruelly tortured, was strangled in 628.

Espousal of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In this feast we commemorate the providential care with which God assigned to the Virgin Mother and her Divine Child, in the person of St. Joseph, a faithful guardian and protector in the necessities and trials of their daily life.

St. Timothy, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Timothy, who was a disciple of St. Paul, had been Bishop of Ephesus for more than 30 years, and finally crowned his saintly life by a martyr's death in A.D. 97. He was born at Lystra, Lycaonia, and became first Bishop of Ephesus in 65. In consequence of his opposition to the celebration of a feast in honor of Diana he was stoned to death. We have two epistles of St. Paul to Timothy.

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