

INTERCOLONIAL.

The Rev. Father Hanley, who for some time has been stationed at Cloncurry (Q.), has received an appointment to Kempsey, N.S.W. On his departure from Cloncurry Father Hanley was presented with a purse of sovereigns and an illuminated address.

The Rev. Brother Barron has been appointed Provincial of the Christian Brothers in Australasia, which position was rendered vacant by the death of the late Brother J. J. Mullan.

It has been decided by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne to include Irish history in the primary schools' course of the archdiocese. The Gaelic League has undertaken to provide prize money of the value of £50 a year.

The Rev. Father T. O'Reilly, P.P. (Parramatta), is coming to New Zealand for a holiday, which will probably extend over two months. The Rev. Dr. Burke (Manly Ecclesiastical College) will take charge of the parish during Father O'Reilly's absence.

Mount Kembla Disaster Fund now amounts to £14,718. By the system of distribution widows will receive £1 per week; children under 14 years of age, 2s 6d per week; persons injured in the disasters £1 1s per week.

Mother Mary Evangelist Bohane, one of the pioneer Sisters of Mercy Bathurst, has passed away at the age of 67 years. The deceased Sister had charge of St. Joseph's Orphanage, where she watched over and guided the lives of many orphan children.

Four Marist Fathers have arrived in Sydney from France. Their names are: Rev. Father Dudos, S.M., appointed to Sydney; Rev. Fathers Bertreux, S.M., and Loubiere, S.M., to Noumea; Rev. Father Fox, S.M., to Fiji. Fourteen more Marist Fathers are expected to arrive in Sydney shortly. They are going to various parts of the Pacific Islands.

On New Year's Day, at the close of the retreat given by the Very Rev. Father Treand (Superior of the Sacred Heart Fathers), four postulants were admitted to the Order of the Marist Brothers at St. Joseph's novitiate, Hunter's Hill, eight Brothers at the same time making their perpetual vows. Most Rev. Dr. Kelly presided at the ceremony.

At the Convent of Mercy, 'Monte Sant' Angelo,' North Sydney, on the 18th ultimo, the Rev. Father Kelly, S.J., received the following postulants into the Order: Miss Brophy (Callen, Ireland), in religion Sister Mary Theresa; Miss Cussen (Sydney) Sister Mary Aloysia; Miss Bourks (North Sydney), Sister Mary Ethelburg; Miss Ryan (Tipperary, Ireland), Sister Mary Dymphna.

Hon. J. Leahy, Queensland Minister for Railways, who is self-educated and self-made, is the strongest man in Queensland politics, and a recognised authority on Constitutional law. While laboring for his living he picked up a parcel of historical and legal works at a sale, and read them because he had nothing else to read at night time. The books were the foundation of his success. He is now a fairly wealthy man, as well as a leading influence in public life.

The contract for the alterations and additions to the buildings in Brunswick street, Fitzroy (says the 'Advocate') which are to serve the purposes of club and cloak rooms in connection with the proposed new central Catholic hall, has been let at £2200. A portion of the new hall is included in the undertaking and the expenditure will bring the present cost to £6600. It is expected that the contract will be completed by the end of February next, and the opening of the club rooms, together with the laying of the foundation stone of the new hall, will take place on the first Sunday in March. Already the Archbishop of Melbourne has received generous donations and promises of assistance, several prominent laymen having decided to give £100 each, and the various societies and confraternities in connection with the church intend to make special efforts to meet the heavy liabilities.

It is not alone in Dunedin that the Christian Brothers have proved their worth as teachers, for we find reports of their successes in every place where they are established in the Australasian colonies. Here is what the 'Leader' (Ipswich, Queensland) has to say about the local school: 'About a year ago we made special reference to the Christian Brothers' School. We thought then, as we think now, that the sound training given in this seminary might be emulated by the State education authorities. And we venture also to remark that if the teaching staffs of the grammar and State schools could have seen (and it must be seen to be appreciated) last Friday's demonstration at the Brothers' school hall they would agree with us that something was wrong somewhere. The position may be put in a mathematical way: If, without one pennyworth of State subsidy the Christian Brothers are able to accomplish so much in the way of primary, higher and physical education, what should the public expect from the grammar and State schools which are subsidised to the extent of several thousands sterling in the Ipswich district alone. School comparisons are always interesting food for reflection, and we unhesitatingly assert that after what we have lately seen we are disposed "not to contradict nor believe, but to weigh and consider."

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- January 25, Sunday.—Third Sunday after the Epiphany. Conversion of St. Paul.
- " 26, Monday.—St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr.
- " 27, Tuesday.—St. Vitalianus, Pope and Confessor.
- " 28, Wednesday.—St. John Chrysostom, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
- " 29, Thursday.—St. Francis of Sales, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
- " 30, Friday.—St. Felix IV., Pope and Confessor.
- " 31, Saturday.—St. Peter Nolasco, Confessor.

Conversion of St. Paul.

St. Paul was at first a violent persecutor of the Church. In fact, at the very moment when the grace of God touched his heart he was on his way to Damascus, with the authority to seize any whom he might find professing the new faith, and send them in chains to Jerusalem. After his conversion he devoted all his energies to the propagation of the Christian religion, and spent his life in carrying the glad tidings of redemption to the nations that till then had sat 'in darkness and a shadow of death.'

St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr.

St. Polycarp (70-166) was Bishop of Smyrna. He was the immediate contemporary and friend of St. Ignatius, but nothing certain is known as to his origin or the place of his birth. Irenaeus, his disciple, tells us that he was instructed by the Apostle St. John, and appointed by him Bishop of Smyrna. About the middle of the second century he journeyed to Rome to consult with Pope Anicetus regarding the time of Easter. On this occasion he brought back to the Church many who had been led away by the Gnostics, Valentine and Marcion. It is recorded that on meeting Marcion in the streets of Rome, when the latter asked whether he knew him, he replied that he knew 'the first-born of Satan.' He was close on a hundred years old when he died the death of a martyr by the sword—having been miraculously preserved from death by fire—under Marcus Aurelius—about 166, or, according to others, about 155 or 156. Of his letters, which St. Polycarp, according to the testimony of St. Irenaeus, wrote to the neighboring Churches and to particular persons, we possess only that to the Philippians, whose authenticity is vouched for by Irenaeus and Eusebius, and by the fact that it was publicly read in the churches and that its subject is quite in harmony with the doctrine of the Apostles and the circumstances of the time of the author.

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop Confessor and Doctor.

St. John Chrysostom (347-407), the incomparable John of Constantinople, from his sanctity and eloquence called 'Chrysostom' or 'Golden-mouthed,' was born at Antioch. After spending six years in monastic solitude, where he devoted himself to prayer and the study of the Sacred Scriptures, he was baptised in 369. In 386 he became a priest, and in 397 he was advanced to the See of Constantinople. In his new post John displayed a wonderful zeal and energy. Greatly loved as he was by the people, his bold denunciation of vice made him numerous enemies, especially at court, who in 403 procured his banishment. Although almost instantly recalled he was, at the instigation of the licentious Empress Eudoxia, again exiled the following year to Cucusus in Armenia. Three years afterwards a new decree banished John to Pityus, in Colchis, the farthest limits of the empire, but before reaching that place he died at Comana in Pontus.

St. Francis of Sales, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.

St. Francis of Sales was born in Savoy in 1547. Naturally of a passionate disposition, he succeeded in obtaining such perfect control over himself that his name is a synonym for meekness and patience. Ordained priest, the sanctity of his life, united to a gentle, winning manner, enabled him to bring back to the Church numbers of his countrymen who had given their adhesion to the heretical teaching of Calvin. In 1602 he became Bishop of Geneva. He died in 1622, after having shown himself the model of a bishop as he had been of a layman and a priest.

St. Peter Nolasco.

St. Peter Nolasco was the founder of the Order of Mercy for the redeeming of captives from slavery. The foundation of the Order was laid in 1218. It was instituted with the co-operation of the King of Aragon and of St. Raymond of Pennafort, and was approved by Gregory IX., in 1230. These religious, who adhered to the Rule of St. Augustine, are often called 'Mathurins,' from their house at Paris which was situated near the chapel of St. Maturin. Between the years 1492 and 1691 this Order alone rescued nearly 17,000 Christian captives.

In cases of attacks of Colic, Cramp, or Spasms, Evans's WITCH'S OIL will be found invaluable.—***