

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Rev. Father Matthew O'Sullivan, S.M., of Christ-church diocese, New Zealand, is in Sydney on a holiday. He is the guest of the Very Rev. Father Piquet, S.M., at St. Patrick's. Father O'Sullivan is a native of St. Patrick's parish, Sydney, and his relatives live here. He has received a warm welcome from all his old acquaintances.

The Sydney Town Hall was filled to overflowing on Tuesday evening of last week (says the *Catholic Press* of December 25), when a grand concert, in aid of a memorial to the late Cardinal Moran was given under the auspices of the Hibernian Society. His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney and his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne delivered stirring and eloquent addresses. At the conclusion of the concert Archbishop Kelly, Archbishop Mannix, and the Bishop of Maitland (Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer) and the members of the committee took their places on the platform. When his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney rose to address the gathering a remarkable demonstration occurred, the cheering being loud and prolonged. They were gathered together (said his Grace) to honor one whose name was a household word throughout Australia. They were there at the invitation of the Hibernian Society, and were grateful to them for the opportunity provided of entertaining the Archbishop of Melbourne. (Cheers.) By loving Ireland we became better Catholics, and such was the sentiment uttered by the late Cardinal Moran. It was the intention of the Hibernian Society to erect a monument, in sculptured marble, of Australia's first Cardinal and one of Ireland's most glorious sons. There would be a grand approach to St. Mary's Cathedral, and his Grace would be happy indeed if he lived to see the memorial erected in front of St. Mary's, when it had reached the stage of completion—a monument erected by the Hibernians, to the memory of the Cardinal. "God bless the Hibernians," said his Grace, in conclusion, "God bless our society, God bless all, and the prelate who is going to speak." (Cheers.)

VICTORIA.

In keeping with the practice of former years, a number of employees at the Newport Railway Workshops recently subscribed the sum of £62 as a Christmas gift to the Little Sisters of the Poor Institution, Northcote, as a remembrance of the good work carried out by that body. On a recent Sunday a large number of those interested in the laudable movement, together with members of their families, visited the home, and placed the offering, together with an additional sum of £5 12s, which was collected in the room, in the hands of the authorities. A quantity of tobacco was also distributed amongst the men in the home. The Rev. Mother expressed her thanks for the donations, which (she said) would assist her to carry on the work of the institution in caring for the aged people.

QUEENSLAND.

Judge McNaughton, a sturdy Scotchman, has brought a hornet's nest around his head for daring to show his partiality for St. Patrick's Day as against Foundation Day, and placing it on the Traders' Award as a holiday which must be kept (says the Brisbane correspondent of an exchange). The air has been blue with invectives from the headquarters of the Orange ascendancy humorists and the Black Handers, as naturally could be expected, but the Natives' Association have also at last been aroused from their indifference and apathy, and are in the mildest way possible protesting against the change. They cannot understand or appreciate the fact that the Irish people in Queensland are the only "Nationals" who keep their holiday, and celebrate it in a fashion which makes it the most popular day in the whole year. The other saints' days, that is, those of England, Wales, and Scotland, are ordinary, every-week events, and so is Foundation or Anniversary Day, as it is known down south. For years it has figured on our list of statutory holidays, and for years it has been a dismal failure, as it has never been looked upon seriously by even the people who should "process" and glorify if there were any special cause to do so. Now that the people who should be the guiding stars in this event are awakened, it may be possible for enthusiasm to be worked up, but I have my doubts, as the men in the gap are lacking in that force of character and organising ability to arouse enthusiasm. Should it, however, result in the restoring of their neglected day, it must not be at the expense of St. Patrick's Day; there are other holidays on the list which could be easily eliminated, without offending the susceptibilities or interfering with the sleep of the people who should be most concerned. The miserable out-

come of the whole thing is the working of the sectarian-mongering insects, who are now busy in certain shops filling up petitions from the employees, under, of course, the bosses' supervision, protesting against St. Patrick's Day. These miserable hucksters do not love Foundation Day, but they are annoyed and humiliated that Irish grit and courage has triumphed over their bigotry, and they would use the Natives, or any other force, to defeat that Celtic people, who have scored again over their malevolence. The latest development, however, is that a ballot of members of the Shop Assistants' Union may be taken, to decide the preference; if so, St. Patrick's Day should score, as the men and women who have kept their union in existence for years, despite the non-patronage of those who would now hamper their usefulness at the bosses' cry, will not be dictated to by the Black Handers and Orange conspirators.

TASMANIA.

The Coadjutor-Archbishop of Hobart (the Most Rev. Dr. W. Barry) has had a busy time in Launceston and in the north-eastern portion of the State (says the Hobart correspondent of the *Catholic Press*). In Launceston he received a very enthusiastic welcome from the laity, opened a garden fete in aid of the Catholic schools, and visited the schools in and around Launceston, and in the midst of all this he did not forget to do some plain speaking with regard to the cause of Ireland, and the recent launching of a disgraceful policy of bigotry and sectarianism in Tasmania and Australia, which, he said, should not have a place in a free country like Australia. The jingo press in the north found Dr. Barry's remarks unpalatable, of course, but this is no new state of affairs. Dr. Barry was greatly impressed with the buildings connected with the Church in Launceston, and he spoke of the beauty of Tasmania, which he considered was not known or advertised as it should be. He gave indications, too, that there will be no north v. south, or Launceston v. Hobart, feeling with him, since he said Hobart's scenery was grander than Launceston's, but there was more sylvan beauty at the doors of Launceston.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The insolence and audacity of the Protestant Federation in trying to drag the sectarian serpent into everything is exposed in a late issue of the *Port Adelaide News* in an article headed "Australia Torn Asunder: The Pernicious Cult of Sectarianism." The following are excerpts from the article, which is signed by J. E. Trotman, Lipson Street, Port Adelaide:—"Even the *News* has come in for some of this vituperation, because, forsooth, it dares to give space in its columns to reports of meetings of the Catholic Church. Two subscribers recently asked a mutual friend of themselves and the editor of the *News* to convey to him a warning that he was taking the paper to disaster by giving up space in its columns to the Catholics. They stated further that far more space was given to Catholic reports than to Protestant meetings. If it is a Catholic meeting, or a clergyman leaving, said one of these gentlemen, it will get a column allotted to it, while any other denomination is dismissed in a paragraph of three or four inches. What had caused their ire to rise was that a personal paragraph had appeared in the issue of November 28 concerning a Catholic clergyman whom all citizens of Port Adelaide who have a spark of justice left in them will subscribe to the statement 'to know him was to respect and love him.' Perhaps what hurt our critics was this: 'The Catholics of Port Adelaide nobly and freely responded to the call of arms in the cause of the freedom of the world.' In this campaign Catholics are being wilfully misrepresented. They have a record for loyalty any denomination can be proud of, and the reward they are receiving at the hands of a section of Mr. Hughes' supporters is to have their most commendable record represented as the very opposite of what it is. . . . The mischief created by the present electoral campaign will take years to heal. Our own experience, above referred to, is but the outcome of it. For party purposes sectarian strife has been introduced into Australia to an extent never before experienced, and the men responsible deserve the reprobation of every fair-minded man with a drop of British blood in him. What care they if they split Australia up into factions if their end is served? . . . The *Port Adelaide News* takes no sides in politics, and has not constituted itself a special defender of the Catholic Church. All sects and all parties are alike as far as the columns of this paper are concerned, but we must protest with all our strength against the cultivation in our midst of pernicious sectarian differences. Moreover, the attack made on the *News* we have mentioned shows to what extent the evil is gaining ground among the little-minded. Readers of the paper will be indignant at so gross a misrepresentation. Let them also ask themselves is there one act in Port Adelaide by local Catholics to which they can take exception?"