

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

NEW SOUTH WALES.

At a meeting of the Irish National Executive at St. Mary's presbytery on Wednesday of last week (says the *Catholic Press* of November 4), it was decided to despatch the following cable, in reference to the death of the late Lord Mayor of Cork, Alderman MacSweeney, to Bishop Cahalan, of Cork, and the acting Lord Mayor of Cork:—

"Irish National Executive, representative of all organisations, express deepest sympathy with Mrs. MacSweeney and the Irish people. (Signed), Monsignor Moynagh, Diocesan Administrator."

The State Council of the Catholic Federation authorised the following cablegram to be sent to Mrs. MacSweeney:—

"Catholic Federation, New South Wales, one hundred thousand, send their sympathy to you on your husband's martyrdom. May his sacrifice save Ireland. Cleary, President."

The following cablegram has been transmitted by the Cumann na mBan, Sydney, to Mrs. MacSweeney, widow of the Lord Mayor of Cork: "God be with you. Convey sympathy Cumann, Sydney, to relatives of your husband's comrades in sacrifices."

On Wednesday morning, November 3, a Solemn Office and Requiem, for the repose of the soul of the late Alderman MacSweeney, Lord Mayor of Cork, was celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral. The ceremonies were inspiring, and deeply impressive. Long before 10 o'clock the Cathedral was completely filled, and late-comers experienced difficulty in finding even standing accommodation.

The celebrant was the Right Rev. Dr. Whyte (Bishop-elect of Dunedin), the Very Rev. Father P. Byrne, P.P., was deacon, and Rev. Father T. Phelan, P.P., subdeacon. Rev. Father P. Crowley was master of ceremonies. The cantors were Very Rev. Dr. Hayden (President, St. Patrick's Ecclesiastical College, Manly), and Very Rev. Father M. J. O'Reilly, C.M. (Rector of St. John's College within the University). An exceedingly large number of clergy of the archdiocese, including representatives of all the religious Orders, occupied seats in the sanctuary. There were also present a large number of students from St. Patrick's Ecclesiastical College, Manly, who occupied seats in the choir gallery, and nuns of the Orders of the Little Company of Mary, the Good Samaritan, Sisters of Charity, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of St. Joseph, and Sisters of Mercy, in charge of detachments of school children. The boys of Holy Cross College, marshalled by the Patrician Brothers, wearing national emblems were conspicuous in the congregation. St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, was represented, as were the various friendly societies and other Catholic and National organisations. Among the laity were representatives of the Legislature, the Municipality, and the Catholic newspaper press, together with many prominent citizens. The Cathedral organist, Mr. H. Dawkins, played Beethoven's "Funeral March," before the Office, and Chopin's "Funeral March" at the conclusion of the Mass, and also accompanied the Manly students during the singing of the Mass. At the conclusion of the Mass the celebrant (his Lordship Dr. Whyte) pronounced the last Absolutions, and the congregation then filed slowly in procession past the catafalque, each person reverently kneeling for a few moments.

VICTORIA.

News has been received in Bendigo that the Bishop of Sandhurst, Dr. McCarthy, and Dr. Shiel, Bishop of Rockhampton, left Southampton, on the return journey to Australia, via America by the steamer *Olympic* on October 28, and will leave Vancouver by the steamer *Makura*, on December 8, for New Zealand, where Bishop McCarthy intends spending a month. He expects to arrive in Bendigo in February.

A vast crowd of mourning people was present at the Requiem Mass for the late Terence MacSweeney, T.D.E., at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Tuesday morning (says the *Tribune* of November 4). Long before 10.30 the Cathedral was packed to overflowing, and when Mass commenced the organ gallery and all the aisles were filled. It was felt to be particularly fitting that Tuesday was All Souls' Day. The impressive strains of Chopin's "Funeral March," which was played from the organ prior to the commencement of Mass, accentuated the sorrow of the great congregation. After the final absolution the majestic music of "The Dead March" stirred all present. The catafalque in front of the High Altar added to the solemnity of the scene.

His Lordship the Bishop of Sale presided at the throne in Cappa Magna. Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Dean Hegarty, P.P., V.F. The Revs. J. Donovan, and T. O'Callaghan were deacon and subdeacon respectively. Father P. O'Brien carried out the duties of M.O. The cantors were Rev. Fathers J. P. Carney, T. W. Gallagher, and M. J. Hayes. His Lordship was attended at the throne by Very Rev. Dean Carey and Rev. M. G. Gough. The responses were sung by a great choir of priests representative of practically every parish in Melbourne, and priests from other dioceses were also present. Among the laity present were Lieutenant Terence MacSweeney, of the Mount Park Hospital, a first cousin of the dead Lord Mayor of Cork. The Catholic Federation, the Irish-Ireland League, and every Catholic and Irish organisation were officially represented. After Mass the Bishop entered the pulpit and, speaking with deep feeling, delivered a most eloquent and moving address on the death of Ireland's latest martyr. All hearts were deeply moved by the poignancy of the Bishop's discourse, and at intervals great numbers wept. His Lordship took for his text a wonderful and singularly appropriate passage from the Second Book of Machabees:—"But he, choosing a most glorious death rather than a hateful life, went forth voluntarily to the torment."

QUEENSLAND.

On a recent Sunday afternoon his Grace the Archbishop of Brisbane, opened and blessed a new chapel and dormitories at Lourdes Hill Convent, Hawthorne. Dr. Duhig secured this premier site on the Brisbane River some four or five years ago, and handsome buildings now adorn the hill, from which a commanding view of the river reaches and of the city in panorama is obtainable. The convent is conducted by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, and is a contribution to the architecture of the city.

MISSIONARY PERILS AMONG THE SOUTH-SEA ISLANDS.

The wreck reported on a reef at Gau Island by the Japanese ketch last week-end at Suva (reports the *Polyesian Gazette* of October 23), turned out to be the auxiliary cutter *St. Michael*, owned by the Catholic Mission—a vessel of about 7 tons register. Further news reached Suva from Gau by cutter last Monday night confirming the statement.

It appears that the *St. Michael* was proceeding from Cicla to Kadavu with the Rev. Father Soubeyran and a native crew on board. On the night of Wednesday, the 13th inst. the vessel was off Gau. It was very dark and as the engine was not working the vessel was carried by the strong currents known to exist in that locality into that position and despite the efforts of the captain to keep the cutter off she struck the reef off Malawai at 12.30 a.m. on the seaward side of the island. It was low tide at the time it occurred. The second wave which struck the ill-fated vessel turned her right over, smashing the mast and other parts of the hull badly. It is really marvellous how the occupants escaped. Some of them managed to swim to the dinghy, but when the cutter turned upside down there were four, including Father Soubeyran, imprisoned under the vessel. The members of the crew who escaped, thinking that those under the vessel had been killed as nothing could be heard or seen of them, then attempted to save themselves. Fortunately for those imprisoned the cutter did not go right down on one side: she was held up by a large boulder. This left a hole open by which a man could by diving manage to get underneath and ascertain what had actually happened. However, this was accomplished some hours later by a native member of the crew, and as a result of his endeavors the imprisoned priest and men were made to hear and eventually rescued, but only with great difficulty. It is reported that one, the engineer named Josef, deserves some recognition for services rendered in saving life on that occasion. The priest and crew lost everything in the way of clothing. The Buli Vanuaso and natives of the island were very good to the shipwrecked people.

Three of the crew were badly hurt by the ballast falling on them when the vessel went over.

The Rev. Father Gonet proceeded to the scene in the auxiliary schooner *Ovalau* last Wednesday, returning on Thursday with Rev. Father Soubeyran and injured members of the native crew. Three are now being attended to in the local hospital.