

DIARY OF

Mother Gonzaga Barry

1875

PART

II

2/1
Feb.

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Ms. B. A.

Leo.

Ms. B. A. Angela

These two Travel Diaries of **Mother Gonzaga Barry** were photographed and digitised from the originals which are held in the Institute Archives, Dublin Ireland.

They are the precious record of an intrepid journey the ten women made from **Dublin to Melbourne in 1875**. In the diaries we are given a window into the remarkable relationships they formed within their own little band of **Loreto Sisters** but also as they engaged with the other passengers and crew on the S.S. Somersetshire.

The original handwriting can be almost legible to a keen eye in the digitised copy, but reading requires patience and imagination. So a transcript is provided alongside this resource and at various points along the journey, a recording and illustration is provided to bring the encounters to life.

beautiful things that one of the
 Jesuits said to one of the Sisters
 who stopped to examine some
 article of "vertu" "Oh, Sister, if
 you stop to look at half the things
 here we shall not be out of this to-day!"
 however I could not pass a
 beautiful white marble or
 porphyry Cross, turned round
 with such exquisite rose flowers
 that I thought I had never seen
 anything more beautiful. At
 one end of this room a door
 opened into a gallery or tribune;
 we entered, and found ourselves
 in the presence of the Blessed
 Sacrament, the Archbishop's
 private chapel! It is a perfect
 gem. Stairs from the tribune
 led down to it: we were happy
 to kneel once more in a Chapel,

it was the first time since the
 20th May in Rathfarnham. We
 then admired everything, and
 particularly noted the beautiful
 Stations of the Cross, they were in
 half relief, not very large, but
 beautifully carved and delicately
 coloured. After thanking our
 Lord for our safe arrival, and
 begging His blessing, we followed
 our guides to the picture gallery,
 it was a beautiful room, lighted
 from a dome in the roof; I will
 not describe the pictures, only
 they were large, and looked like
 good copies from the old Masters.
 But as some of these gentry never
 paint according to my "beau idéal",
 we are not great friends; I am not
 capable of judging of their excel-
 lences, and no one with us seemed

to know much about them, so we waited through quietly: I could not help wishing there had been a Clothing Society for painted children in Rome at the time of the "Great Masters". There was a handsome Altar covered and festooned with crimson velvet and gold fringe at the upper end of the room; over it was a beautiful painting of the Communion of St. Jerome the priests told us the Archbishop used this for a chapel while his own was being secretly decorated. We next went up on the roof of the house, it is surrounded by a balustrade, but the roofs and chimneys rose up all about us; we were well screened, though the view was not hidden, and a

very fine view it was; - the splen-
 did Cathedral near us, - the Jesuit
 College which almost joins it - the
 Christian Brothers', an immense
 building, - the Governor's House,
 Treasury, etc, and Abbotsford Con-
 vent in the distance. Dr. Fitzpa-
 triek brought us an Opera glass
 to look through. One thing struck
 us very much, - the number of
 Churches, and all nearly with
 Crosses on gables and spires; we
 were told that all different religions
 build their own Churches, and
 nearly all put crosses on them,
 so that is no sign here of a Catho-
 lic Church. We pointed out one
 very pretty church just opposite
 the Cathedral, and Dr. O'Sullivan
 laughingly told us that was a
 Lady's Church, - a Miss Turner.

she built it herself and now preaches in it every Sunday, and has a large audience too.

Here, on the top of the house, ^{Dr} M. Berchmans had her first meeting with her uncle ^{Dr} Dalton. I ^{sup} he came up, as he said, to look for "his aunt, his child"; we were all disappointed at not meeting him on our landing, but ^{Dr} Cabell told us it was impossible for him to come, as he was in the law courts, on a case of great importance about some poor little children left by their dying mother to his care, but now claimed by the Protestants, and all Melbourne was excited and divided on the issue of the case; - we had great fun with M. Berchmans about her uncle being in the hands

of the Police when we arrived. Both uncle and aunts seemed very much affected at the meeting, and very glad to see each other; Mr Dalton has goodness and kindness in his very appearance; he was very kind to all the sisters. The good Priests had a nice Luncheon prepared for us, and though we felt ashamed, eleven of us sitting down to be waited on by them, we did ample justice to everything, and all seemed delicious, it being our first taste of food on land for two months nearly, and we quite forgot our promises of not looking at tea for three months after our landing. Some of us could never for ourselves to take the boorage so called on board the Somersetshire

and had recourse to water and
milk; some called it chalk and
water, but that was a calumny,
as the water was solutened with
real milk, and very glad and
grateful we were to get it.

I should have mentioned that
before this we visited the Cathe-
dral, and I do not think I will
try to describe it, for it is truly a
magnificent building, planned
nobly, but some say so vast that
it will never be finished, still I am
sure it will. The Altar is now placed
about where the centre of the Church
will be when finished; there is one
grand stained glass window, I think
it is the large western one; all the
other windows are filled with amber
glass, and this subdued light had a
very fine effect on the noble pillars

and arches, the Sanctuary and all the decorations. The side chapels were to the B. V. M. as Mary Immaculate, and to the Sacred Heart, there was a very beautiful painting of the Sacred Heart with a Cross; that is, our Lord was represented carrying the Cross, and pointing to His Heart. There was a very large white marble Crucifix in the Sanctuary, where the Altar is finished the Cross will be placed behind, as in the Church in Gorey. The altar rails were very beautiful gilt metal. The Blessed Sacrament is kept in a side chapel. The Stations here also are peculiarly beautiful carved figures, coloured, and very large. Fr. O'Sullivan introduced Dr. Fitzpatrick as the Guardian Genius of the Cathedral, as it was all built under his inspection.

tion and as they are building it still he almost lives in it, and seems to love every stone (builder like); he is a most sincerely looking old man, very gentle and quiet in his manners, reminded some of the Curé d' Ars. Fr^{re} Carey stayed at the Archbishop's to see His Grace, but promised to see us again in the evening or next morning; he looked very sorry when saying good-bye. Bidding good-bye with grateful thanks to our kind hosts we again mounted our Waggonettes, and set off for the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford, Fr^{re} Dalton, Cahill, and Watson accompanying us; Fr^{re} Dalton is Confessor to the Nuns and Penitents, and an immense favourite, as we soon perceived. When we arrived, we were shown

into a large and handsomely fur-
 nished reception room; a rich Ber-
 sels carpet completely covered the
 floor; a lounge, easy chairs, vase
 flowers, fancy work, and other
 ornaments; the walls had several
 oil paintings, we were told many
 of them were the productions of one
 of the Srs, a Colonial and Mother
 Assistant. Three or four of the Nuns
 came to us, we got a warm welcome
 from all; cake and wine were
 brought to us; we did not do much
 in that way, owing to the Luncheon
 at the Archbishop's. After a little
 I asked for Mary Cullen, and she came
 to us, delighted of course to see an old
 friend from Gorey; she is certainly
 in appearance one of the wisest nuns
 in the Community, and there
 are many very wise nuns among

them, there are about 32 S^{rs} or more
 there. S^r Dalton introduced Mother
 Euphrasia to me as his greatest tor-
 ment, she is the Assistant, loves the
 poor penitents so much that she is
 continually devising something for
 their spiritual good, which of course
 S^r Dalton has to carry out, even
 then she was talking to him about
 their Retreat, they were going through
 it then, and several were to make
 their Consecration at the end, and
 take what they call their "final vows".
 This good Mother being "a Colonial"
 has constantly to defend her native
 land from the jesting attacks of
 all who take pleasure in tormenting
 her on this head, now they were
 teasing her about the incessant
 rain which had poured down for
 some days past "In the most de-

lightful climate in the world," she answered whatever this climate did, it did properly; when it rained it rained earnestly; when the sun shone, it shone brilliantly; all agreed it did the latter with a vengeance in Melbourne. The priests complained of the cold of the day; we found it like a hot day in April, but we were told when we were some years in Australia we should feel the cold as they did; strange to say, long years of residence make people less able to bear the cold.

Abbotsford.

We were conducted by several of the *Srs* through the Convent and places where their works of charity and industry are carried on: And first to the chapel; it is quite a new building, in the form of a

cross, sanctuary very large in proportion to the rest; no altar rails, but a step like Prashfarham; the seats are in the choir front of the Altar, the left transept is screened off and appropriated to secularists who come to the morning Mass; the right transept is also screened off, and over it is a large gallery, the lower part of this choir or transept is occupied by the penitents, the gallery above by the children of the Industrial Schools. The Altar is plain, scored painted wood, at either side there is one to the Sacred Heart and to our Immaculate Mother; both statues very handsome and devotional, tastefully decorated. Behind the Altar is a Chancel, the width of the Sanctuary, all the windows beautiful stained glass. We then went on

to see the Industrial School, - fine large room, two rows of desks down both sides, passage down the centre, and a large wood fire burning in the grate at the end of the room. All the children wore white pinafores and looked bright and happy; there were about 300 children, some not more than 2½ up to about 12 years of age; they commenced singing as soon as we went in; they sang their school-songs, so as to give us a great idea of the lungs of the young Colonials, the action was energetic and perfect. We visited the work-rooms, where the more grown learned to make and mend clothes, the wash-house and bathery, where the Industrial children are taught; they are quite distinct in all things from



The Nun's Cell in Abbotsford

"The cell was 10 by 11 feet, with a crucifix, a holy water font, and a large arched window."



the Penitents. The dormitory is extremely neat; a little room at the end contained two beds just like our boarders' beds, trimmed with white, for the two nuns who sleep in the dormitory. Two little children, one in her nice little white bed, the other, a wee thing, seated in a little chair beside the bright wood fire, looked happy and cared-for. We then went to see the Penitents (they were nearly all Irish, - 140-) in a large house, engaged in washing, and several children of Mary, wearing their blue ribbons and medals, were amongst them; - this is given as the first reward of good conduct in the house; afterwards, if they wish, they become "consecrated", and wear a special dress, and some-

thing like a sun-burnet instead of a veil; several of these were engaged folding and ironing, and looked sweet gentle young creatures. What happiness to see them there safe and at rest! The whole of the women sang one or two hymns, there were beautiful voices among them; they then sang "The Shamrock" for the S^{rs} from Ireland.

There is a beautiful Oratory for the Consecrated Virgins, dedicated to "Our Lady of Dolours", a large black Cross on the Altar, and a statue of our Immaculate Mother standing beneath, the drapery white, edged with black lace; most beautiful flowers, - lilies of the Nile, roses, geraniums, all natural were on the altar; a beautiful white marble statue of St. Mary Magdalen is also

Children by the Fire

*"One child in a white bed, the other seated in a little chair
by the bright wood fire."*





in the little chapel; - the Office of Our Lady is said here every day. We visited all the rooms and places where the different industries are carried on; in one room they were mending the nuns' untanned leather shoes: whilst at work they hardly ever stop singing; - the Sr^{ts} told me this was very useful, and even necessary. Returning from the Convent we visited the Infirmary, and saw a Sr^t who had been cured by a miracle about two years ago, through the intercession of Vère Eudres, the founder of the Good Shepherd Nuns; she was now suffering from a bad Rheum. I did not see the Community-room and Novices' choir, but some of the other Sr^{ts} did; they say they were very nice; - carpets all over

the floors and cloths on the table like a reception room, - Halls in Community room; - two bath-rooms. I liked the staircase painted all white, with a grey and white saving-cloth like M. P. A. It was raining heavily as we returned from our wanderings, and the Frs. made us put on large black and white (shepherd's plaid) shawls.

Dinner was now ready for us, and the Jesuit Frs., Frs. O'Sullivan and Dalton, returned to Melbourne leaving Frs. Cahill and Watson S. J. to bring us to see the Jesuit Church and house at Richmond. As it was so late, Fr. Cahill thought we could not see the place well, and it would be better defer it till morning; I thought the same, so one of the Waggonettes was dismissed,



The Singing Classroom

"The Industrial School had rows o desks and children happily working and singing."



and we sat down to a good dinner of home-produce, the Jesuits carving and eating, and the good Srs waiting on us. Margaret, Ellen, and Bruno had a side-table; we had been introduced to a gentleman in the morning a Mr. O'Reefe, who said his wife could provide lodging for two of our seculars, so Margaret and Ellen were selected. Mr. O'Reefe's only child is a nun in Abbotsford; he took her to Ireland, and half round the world before he would allow her to enter, but after seeing every place, she returned to the Good Shepherds, faithful to her first vocation.

Abbotsford could only accommodate five; the Jesuits told us before we went there that we could not expect to remain all in the one Con-

went, and after dinner we had to
 decide who should go with F^r. Cahill
 to M^{rs}. Jones of Richmond. I
 wished M. Berchmans to go, on
 account of F^r. Dalton her uncle, who
 lives at Richmond, and so it seemed
 better to send all who had shared
 'Cabin D.' with her in the Somer-
 setshire. F^r. M. Racria, Dorothea,
 and Berchmans, then took pos-
 session of the waggonettes, and
 set off with the Jesuits for Rich-
 mond, F^r. M. Moyais, Gertrude,
 Boniface, Bruno, Helen Hughes,
 and myself remaining in Abbot-
 sford. F^r. Mother said she was
 sure we would like to get a little
 quiet time to ourselves, and
 showed us into another parlour
 more handsomely furnished even
 than the other, all of us remarked

the beautiful chairs, carpeting, etc. and it made us say the good people at home have no idea of the grand scale on which things in general are carried on here. We went to bed early, after again visiting the chapel. How delightful and quiet all appeared after the noisy, tossing cabins; I occupied St. Margaret Mary's cell; she came to see us just before we went to bed; she had been to see our Carmelit in Dublin, and so took a special interest in us; she is a very nice lively little St. and looks very young to have travelled so much. I measured the cell, as it looked like one I would wish to have for the St. in Ballarat, it was 10 feet by about 11, very lofty, a large arched window, plate glass, green Venetian blinds; walls white,

beds like our boarders' beds, white counterpanes, a large engraving of the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, over the table near the bed, and a large Crucifix on opposite wall, holy water font at door, a little statue of B. V. M. on table, glass over the door to allow light from the corridor to shine into the cell, but I did not require this, as I had a candle in a silver-plated candlestick, all the Sr^s' cells on same corridors were the same; we remarked all the rooms and passages extremely lofty. Said my prayers with a very grateful heart and slept well, T. G. till about half past five a.m. when some one called me for Sr^s Margaret Mary; I was not sorry for the mistake, as I had good time to dress and undress

my meditation before Mary Cullen
 Srst Gertrude, called me; she also came
 to bring us to Mass 7 o'clock, we had
 chairs at each side of the Sanctuary.
 Fr^{re} Kelly, S. J. said Mass, after it there
 was a hymn sung and some prayers
 said by the children, then a hymn
 and prayers from the Penitents. They
 vary the hymns, we were told, accord-
 ing to the day or season. We had
 breakfast in the second parlor,
 three long windows and a glass
 door opened on the verandah; we
 heard this room had been used as
 a chapel until the other had been
 built, and I am sure it was a
 pretty one. Before we had finished
 breakfast Fr^{re} Kelly sent to know
 if he could see us; of course we
 said yes, and he had scarcely
 come in, when the Bishop.

Dr O'Connor and Dean Moore
 were announced, to the great
 delight of the Sr^s who knew his
 Lordship, and to the no small
 trepidation of one who had to be
 introduced. The Bishop seemed
 quite enchanted to see all safe
 and well, he gave us a truly
 Fatherly welcome, and we felt
 at home in a moment; Dean
 Moore was also very kind. The
 Bishop said he must go say
 Mass of thanksgiving, and we
 were all to be ready to start for
 Ballarat immediately after. Fr^s
 Kelly was commissioned to send
 the three Sr^s from Richmond,
 but their friends there were great-
 ly displeased to hear we should
 start without the Sr^s who rem-
 ained at Abbotsford going to

see them and indeed F^r. Cabell and some of the others said they would not allow the three to return until we went for them. but they were prevailed on to allow them to depart. They regretted very much that the Bishop was in such a hurry to get us home for they intended we should all see the Jesuit Churches and houses at Richmond and Melbourne, the Presentation at Fildes and the Mercy Nuns at Nicholas^{ky} Melbourne. Mrs. Mather at Abbotford said we should have singing Mass, and the Frs gave us a very pretty Mass, the Dean, or his little, Dr. Moore, assisted the Bishop at Mass, and when it was finished, we went to pack up our black bags and then met

the Bishop and Dean, who were
 breakfasting in the large parlour.
 Many kind enquiries were made
 by his Lordship for Bro^r Mother
 in each parsonage and elsewhere.
 he told of a great mistake which
 had been made by him the day
 before; he and the Dean intended
 to come to Melbourne by the mid-
 day train, but learning that some
 preparations for us had to be seen
 to in the Presbytery, the Dean de-
 cided to remain and see to them,
 while the Bishop hurried on to
 catch the train; some of the
 Officials came out to see the
 Bishop into a good carriage,
 opened the door, and he stepped
 in, all anxiety to reach Mel-
 bourne as soon as possible.
 The first station he stopped at

seemed strange; the second, stranger, he had seen it before, but not on his way to Melbourne. Before he could call a guard the train started again, and at the third station he got out, and learned that he was on his way to "Ararat" a town in a directly contrary direction to Melbourne! What was he to do now? 27 miles from Ballarat, and no train till late in the evening, no car or horse for hire in the Bush; he had to send several miles for the loan of a carriage, and arrived back to Ballarat only in time to go with the Dean in the evening train; they arrived in Melbourne between 11 and 12 at night. He laughed heartily and got laughed at for the mistake.

Our ^{Fr}s arrived from Richmond, another glad meeting with the Bishop, and then we prepared to say Good-bye to the Kind ^{Fr}s at Abbotsford, thanking them for their hospitality, and hoping they might yet have a Mission in Ballarat. We got into three carriages, and drove again to the Archbishop's. Dr. O'Connor was anxious to present us, and get Dr. Gould's blessing for us; His Grace came out to the verandah to meet us, and brought us into a parlour, the floor of which was of mosaic tiles, covered with pieces of matting and carpet, for coolness's sake I suppose. The Archbishop is a very venerable-looking old man with a kind manner, he congratulated Dr. O'Connor on getting us

for his Diocese, said he was not so fortunate, though he asked years ago. Mr. Ball entertained the petition favourably, but nothing came of it; he repeated this 2 or 3 times, and added "I suppose she did not think Australia was within the pale of the civilized world". He regretted we could not wait to see the schools and Orphanages under the care of the sisters in Melbourne; he said he had to begin with four sisters, and two of that number died; he also regretted not being at home the day before when we called, he asked was there anything we had not seen, and hoped we had had a good luncheon. We satisfied him on all these points, and rose to take our leave; he blessed us all

again, and we remounted our carriages to go to the train. Dr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. O'Sullivan, and poor Mr. Carey saw us off, Father Carey promising to come see us as soon as he could; he looked quite lonely after his "Somersetshire" friends, who can never forget his kindness on "that 'ire ship". Mr. Cahill had to go to the College, but Mrs. Dalton, Kelly, and a German Jesuit, came with us to the station, the latter had a talk with S. M. Boniface in their native tongue. We all travelled 1st Class, had a carriage all to ourselves, the Bishop, Dean, Margaret, Ellen, in the next carriage; at nearly every stop the Bishop got out to see how we were getting on; he made the Dean buy oranges at one

of the stations. Nothing amused us more than the strange little wooden houses, some of them very pretty, and in the neighbourhood of Melbourne roses and other summer flowers, although we must not forget this is midwinter here. Between Gorey and Emuiscorchy there is a small station-house built of wood, and the way the boards are planed and set is exactly the same as the way they are set in all the wooden houses in Australia, no matter what size the house may be. Ballarat is 69 miles from Melbourne, and takes four hours by train, the country is flat, and not very interesting to look at, little mountains of rock rise suddenly and sharply sometimes out of the

plain, and hills or low mountains looking quite blue in the distance run all along the route. There were some pretty views here and there. Geelong, half way between Melbourne and Ballarat, is a town prettily situated on a bay or arm of the sea; the Bishop came to us at this station, and said he was sorry we could not stop and see the Convent of the *Srs* of Mercy there, but if we stopped we should lose the day, and he was anxious we should arrive in Ballarat by dinner time. We passed through a good deal of Bush, and I was surprised to see a good deal of hart? from the trees lying on the ground, as the native trees shed their hart? instead of their leaves which are evergreen.



The View of Ballarat

"The city looked large and handsome, with the bright sun shining on it."



Ballarat

There are two railway stations in Ballarat, East Station and West Station. We passed the East, and went to the West, Ballarat from a hill just near the station, the city looked large and handsome with a bright sun shining on it. Our arrival was to be kept a secret, as the Dean said if it were announced thousands would be waiting to receive us, and we might not like a crowd, - on the platform, and even before the train quite stopped, some rushed into it, exclaiming "Thanks be to God! let us get one look at them. Oh! what a sight for us poor creatures in a foreign land! Praise be to God! etc." The Bishop and Priests now appeared and the people retired, a

passage was made through the
 crowd, his Lordship came to our
 railway-carriage and called us
 out by name to him: it seemed
 he wanted the ancients first, as
 he handed myself, Mrs. M. Bloyce,
 Gertrude, and Laveria, into his
 own carriage, the one the people of
 Ballarat presented him. Mrs. M.
 Boniface, Merchman, Dorothea,
 and Brisco were in the next. Hel-
 en Hughes, Margaret, and Ellen
 had a cab, while the Bishop and
 Dean got into an open carriage
 with a pair of spanking bays,
 and led the procession down
 Sturt Street. A great many la-
 dies and gentlemen waited on
 the Colonnade at the railway station
 to see the nuns, amongst them
 Mrs. Rowe and family, she came

The Welcome at Ballarat Cathedral

"The crowd rushed to see the nuns, with children held up to catch a glimpse."





up from Melbourne in the same train; her father, Archdeacon Stretch, met her; a sad meeting I am sure, when she thought of the parting so short a time before.

Sturt Street is a splendid street, much wider than Sackville St.; trees are planted at both sides; the shops and houses look very fine, there are some good public buildings but we did not know what they were; as we passed the Town Hall, a beautiful peal of joy bells chimed out, and kept ringing till ^{after} we had arrived at our destination, they are rung, I believe, one or two evenings in the week, but if not rung specially for us, it was a pleasant coincidence for them to commence just as we came up to them. All the people stared at us as we

went along, the Catholics I am sure rejoiced, as for us we prayed earnestly that God might give us grace to do some good amongst them; indeed as soon as we caught sight of the city from the train we began to pray for ourselves and the people, and to invoke the Holy Angels of the place. The carriages drove to the Cathedral, as the Bishop said he wanted to say a private "Te Deum" there with us and the Priests for our safe arrival; but a public one was to be said the following Sunday, and we were to assist at it, so I will not describe the Church - which is a very fine one - until then: there was no one in it when we went in, but when we turned to come out, there was a crowd kneeling in

the seats in the Nave. The Bishop said the Te Deum in the side chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was, the Priests answering him, and the Dean, we stood and said it with our hearts. Again in the carriages and on our way to our temporary Convent, the Bishop told us we were to have a wooden house, great inconveniences etc. so we were not at all prepared for the stylish abode of "The Presbytery."

The carriages drove up to a handsome Gothic Church, a gate was opened just beside it and we found ourselves in a lawn and flower-garden at one side, an orchard at the other, and between both, such a pretty house with large pointed windows, a porch, several stables, and a verandah and raised

walks running all round; at the door we were met by old Bridget, the Bishop's housekeeper, now called Miss Proche, all smiles and siccres, and looking young (£40 per annum instead of £10.) When we were all landed in the Parlor, we got the Bishop's blessing again and while waiting for dinner to be placed on the table, we went out with him to explore the extensive regions of the Conventual grounds.

First of all the Bishop took us across the Garden to the Church of St. Alexis; a side door leading into the rectory opens on the garden, and by it we could get into the church whenever we wished. The Church is newly built, not yet dedicated, a good size, so large indeed that a priest from America who said Mass



Gold Mines Near the Church

"The gold mines are called 'claims' here, working day and night."



for us a few days after our arrival, thought it was the Cathedral. It consists of a nave and two aisles, no transept, the arches pointed Gothic. pillars of a smooth kind of grey stone, two rows of windows filled with amber glass, seats and altar rails of polished pine; the Altar very handsomely carved. The altar of B.V.M. is at right of the high altar, and a kind of chapel not dedicated yet to any particular saint. Picture of the Crucifixion in oil over the altar; vases of beautiful artificial flowers and grapes under glass shades on the altar; all the spaces between the benches in the nave and aisles are covered with matting; the altar-piece over the High Altar is a copy of Raphael's Transfiguration. Our place in the

Church here is near the altar of the
 B. V. M.; there is a nice statue of
 Mary Immaculate. After a short
 visit to the Blessed Sacrament,
 we went through the grounds; there
 is a pretty little summer-house just
 opposite the house, with seven sides,
 one for each of us. In the orchard
 there are apple, pear, cherry, and
 gooseberry trees, a bath-house and a
 summer-house: there are large aloe
 plants more than five feet high,
 a small kind of palm-trees, rhodo-
 dendron, laurel, laurustinus, and
 many other shrubs I do not know
 the names of. I was delighted to see
 the familiar flowers, two large
 lilies of the Nile in the middle of
 the garden square, standing in the
 open ground all the winter; but
 the leaves are not so tall as at home

The Bishop's Garden

"A beautiful garden with camellias, rosemary borders, and aloe plants."





owing, I suppose to the want of moisture. There were beautiful pansies, geraniums of all kinds, but not in flower, fuchsias ditto, verbenas, and a good collection of plants in two flower stands under the verandah. I almost thought the cactus (S. M. Bertrand's pot one) and a seed ... of M^{rs} Martin's had been transported by some other means than the "Somersetshire"; - pots and plants are exactly like those in Emiscoreby and several others so like that I am frequently in the day reminded of our greenhouse under the trellis in M. R. A. Fresh sand or gravel, had been brought from the Goldmine, the shaft of which is only a few yards from the Church; the sand or gravel is of a light yellow colour, and looks very pretty and

clear on the waves. The gold-mines
 are called "claims" here, one neigh-
 boring claim worth a day and night
 sometimes, than 100 to my ear, I
 do not hear it. There is also a
 crushing-mill near, this extracts
 the gold from the stone, 14 penny
 weights being considered good in a
 ton, but large nuggets are some-
 times found near the surface; £4
 per ounce is their value here. But
 we were told long ago the dinner was
 waiting and the Bishop and Priests
 said they knew we were longing to
 be left to ourselves, and so went
 off with a promise to return and
 see if we wanted anything in the
 evening. There was a grand dinner
 prepared, prominent in it was
 an immense turkey and roast
 beef, some of the finest potatoes

and other vegetables I ever saw, several kinds of wine and Champagne by the Dean's order. We all had a good appetite; and did justice to our good dinner, afterwards we were to go and inspect the house. As you come into the hall there is a nice parlour at one side, two large windows, Gothic-circle, plate-glass, venetian-blinds light green, lace curtains hung from large pole fastened to the ceiling, paper white and gold, large chimney-glass, library, and a beautiful harmonium, much larger than the one in Gorey, cost 86 guineas, pictures and photographs; I give particulars to show how the Priests are lodged here. There are five bedrooms well furnished, a nice library in four of them; all the rooms here are

carpeted. The priests' dining-room was our refectory and Community room; it is a very large and cheerful room; besides, there are Kitchen, pantries, and servants' rooms, so a wooden house can contain a good deal of room. I forgot to say it is surrounded by a high wooden fence, like a high wall. The boards are closely joined and painted white, the upright post black; it has a very neat appearance, and makes the garden as retired as a wall or enclosure; this is the way all houses or fields or paddocks, as they are called, are fenced in here; no stone walls. All round the house are planted the Blue Gum trees, so good for the air and the chest, they are immense high trees evergreen, and



The Orchard Retreat

"In the orchard there are apple, pear, cherry and gooseberry trees, a bath house and a summer house."



in shape resemble very much the
 Knaplar or Sally; I enclose a leaf, it
 has a strong smell of gum when
 broken or rubbed in its green state.
 There is certainly no lack of water,
 for in the garden and grounds there
 are 4 or 5 supplies; an iron tube
 stands up out of the ground about
 3 feet, a brass cock on the top; turn
 this and you have as much as you
 wish; two of these are in the garden,
 and it seems to me a great improve-
 ment on the usual way of getting
 water at home. Another thing
 we all like very much is the fire
 of wood, it is so bright and cheery,
 and so easily lighted; I think it
 must be some kind of gum wood,
 even if wet with the rain it will
 take fire like a match, and after
 blazing for some time, settle down

into a bright fire like charcoal,
 scarcely any smoke or dust. *Dr.*
Burns said she would never like
 to see a coal fire again. The hearths
 of course are built for wood.
Little Helen loves fire-making;
 here 'tis a pleasant job, not like the
 tasks the *Sts* in *Unniskorby* had
 last *Autumn*; I often think of them
 when I see the fire being kindled
 and poor *M. Bertrand* and *M. Agnes's*
 efforts to equal more fortunate spec-
 ulators. Not about a fortnight
 after we came, the weather was
 beautiful morning and evening,
 a little chilly, enough to make
 wood fires pleasant. As a mat-
 ter of course we are here inundated
 with visitors, of all ages, ranks, and
 degrees; for although there is much
 greater equality here than in

Europe, still there is a remarkable difference between those of "the good old stock" who came out here to build up their broken fortunes, and the working-classes, who came to better themselves, - and have generally done so much better than the other class. There are many of the nicest ladies I ever met here, and many women who seem immensely rich but somehow you would not like to speak disdainfully of servants in their presence, feeling that they were once of that class; but all the young people are nice, and in manner, accent, and general appearance, much superior to the middle class of children and young people at home. Of course we have not had any practical experience of the children yet, but they seem very precocious;

the young people nearly all are
 anxious to do something for them-
 selves, and seem rather proud to
 be in business or teaching a school,
 but I am afraid there is a want of
 obedience and respect to their pa-
 rents, and a little general "Prestiness",
 but the Bishop and others give them
 a good character for docility and
 generosity, and nearly all the girls
 that have had the advantage of
 conventual education in Mel-
 bourne or Geelong are very good.
 This is encouraging. They are cer-
 tainly a generous people, for the
 presents are beyond all counting, and
 we are generally told they are wait-
 ing till we get into our new house.
 When the parlour is full of visitors
 two or three of the ^{ladies} hold a levee
 on the verandah, and the same

conversation is gone over and over
 with different batches of people.
 They welcome us to their colony,
 enquire about our voyage and pres-
 ent state of health, and if we think
 we shall like Ballarat, we ask
 what part of Ireland they are from,
 how long they are out; they tell
 us their "experience", ask about "Home"
 as they always call Ireland, bid us
 good bye, and then we begin with
 another new set, the same thing,
 with little variation, over again.
 We are often amused to see how
 heartily a good servant will shake
 hands with a lady, and the lady with
 her; the latter will sometimes ask
 us: "Who is that? I do not think I
 ever saw her before." Introductions,
 at least in the Convent, are not
 thought necessary. People will

come more than 10 miles, and bring their children just "to see a Nun"; there is often a great deal of weeping on these occasions at being so reminded of old times and the nurse they saw long ago "at home"; the remembrance will do them good. The anxiety of the poor mothers to have their little children come to convent school makes it most painful to have to refuse them, at least until we can have a free school. There has been a great depression of trade, particularly the mines, in Ballarat lately, and the Dean says it is harder to get one pound now than to get 50 some years ago. There are a great many Protestants, Germans, and Jews here; some of each class have visited us, and Protestants

as the priests will we take Protestant children in our schools. A great number of the priests from distant districts have visited us, some two days' journey off, and some from Melbourne, who knew our Frs in Ireland, they all promise to send boarders when we get into our Convent. They are all very hard-worked, but seem to like their missions and the work. One of our priests here in Ballarat told us the Bishop is so kind and good to them that they feel like at home with him, and do not miss their father or family in Ireland.

The Sunday after our arrival, 25th July, the Bishop told us he would wish us to be present at High Mass in the Cathedral and the public Te Deum for our safe arrival, so about half

past ten the carriages came for us,
 the seven and Helen Hughes got in
 to them, and off we drove to the Ca-
 thedral; where we arrived the priests
 had not yet come; the Clerk - a very
 responsible looking person, - informed
 us of the fact but suggested that
 our places were prepared in the
 Sanctuary if we wished to dismount
 or take immediate possession, or in
 any case Dr. Moore would be here
 presently. After a moment's re-
 flection, we decided it was better
 to alight and adjourn to the Vestry
 till the Bishop and priests arrived;
 this we did under the patronage of
 the Clerk, about a dozen little
 boys in soutanes, and of course
 an admiring crowd. The Vestry
 was a very large room, large enough
 for a conference I thought, fitted

up with everything that should be in a Vestry, 2 Gothic windows, a vestment press all down one side of the room, the Vestments for High Mass were laid out, and very handsome they were, Bishop's Crozier, Processional Cross, brass torch-holders for the Acolytes etc.

We sat down, and in a few minutes the Bishop, Dean and Priests came in; a cheery welcome from the Bishop, and then we were conducted to seats prepared for us. As we entered the Sanctuary, the choir commenced the "Laudate Dominum" Zingerelli, when it was finished, High Mass was begun, the choir sang the whole of the Gloria and Credo, and indeed the entire of Mass. The Organ is a splendid one, it is curiously divided, one half

being at one side of the Organ Gallery and the other half at the opposite side, this saves the beautiful wood-
en windows both from being hid-
den, and from the danger of being
broken by the vibration. There is
an excellent organist, and the choir
is very good, although we did not
hear it at its best, they say, owing
to absence of the best male voice,
and also some ladies. The Bishop
preached first on the Gospel of the
day—"the Pharisee and the Publican",
recommending charity and humil-
ty, then he spoke of the arrival of
the Anns, reminded the people
of how he had asked their prayers
for our safe arrival, and that as
God had granted their prayer, they
should thank Him, for which
intention the "Te Deum" was about

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to be sung; then he spoke in great
praise of the Institute of the W.V.M.
or Loretto Nuns, as we were called
in Ireland, told the people the sacri-
fices the S^{rs} had made to come to
them, and that he hoped "they would
prove their gratitude in a practical way";
he spoke very nicely and feelingly,
and seemed to be listened to with
great attention, as you would "hear
a pin drop" while he was speaking.
Then Mass was finished, and we
had the "Te Deum" in grand style, it
was first intoned from the altar,
and then taken up by the choir,
all the congregation standing. After
Mass, or rather when the priest had
gone into the Vestry, there was a
kind of procession, the acolytes
and a priest bringing the Blessed
Sacrament back to the chapel.

where it is kept; when this was over there was a great rush to the rails from the people in the middle of the Church to see the Xmas-children were held up to look at them, but indeed it was very little of us could be seen, as we had our Communion veils on, but the good people were gratified all the same. The Bishop and Dean soon came for us, and when we were in the Vestry again, the Bishop welcomed us all to Ballarat, and said he felt we were like established men; we asked him which was the way he meant to establish us in. - the humility of the 1st part of his sermon, or the pride we might feel inclined to by all the praises he bestowed on us; of course he recommended strongly that we should be founded

and grounded in humility, so we concluded the Pharisee and the Publican were to prevent the praises from doing us any harm. In going back to the carriages, the crowd was so great that the Deans and priests had to go before us to get a passage, but some Irish voices begged hard to be let get a look at Nims, any way. When the first were safe and the priest went on to get the other four to the carriage, some of the people crowded round us and begged to touch our hands; one of them, a young girl, having got this boon, rushed off to a vacant spot and performed a very energetic dance to her own satisfaction, showing off the hand that had been shaken by a nun. It was not easy to get the carriages through the crowd but we

got home safely, T.G. and prepared
 our minds for a repetition of the same
 in the evening at Vespers and Benediction, the Bishop thought it
 would be useful for us to hear how
 the congregation, and particularly
 the children, joined in the singing;
 we undertook we should be sent
 for at 7, so we had supper early,
 but 7.30 arrived and no sign; at
 last, when we had ceased to ex-
 pect, the carriages drove in, and Mr.
 Cleary arrived quite out of breath
 saying that His Lordship had waited
 delaying the Vespers, as long as he
 could, but had at last to commence.
 The men made a mistake about
 the hour they were told to come
 for us; but, driving quietly down,
 we were in before the Vespers were
 over. The ceremony was very nicely

carried out, - the Bishop, Dean, priests,
 and two benches of boys in soutanes
 and surplices inside the sanctuary
 but all in the Chapel seemed to join
 in the singing, the organ and choir
 joining in ^{at} parts. The time of the
 children was excellent, the only
 thing left to be desired was swiftness,
 what brings these young Colonials
 must have! One man with a
 powerful voice led the boys, but
 seemed to ambition solely to have
 the last note always; in vain the
 poor Organist prolonged the note
 even beyond all strict bounds, his
 breach was longer, he was not to be
 drowned or extinguished in that
 way; we heard afterwards it was
 a great trial of patience when
 the long winded fits came on him.
 Benediction was beautiful, sung

by the Choir alone, the people and children sing the Litany in turn - the same procession of the Blessed Sacrament as in the morning, and then we got home quite edified and delighted at all we had seen and heard. This was our first Benediction since May in Rathfarnham.

Our Drive to Lake Wendouree.

In the course of the second week, the Bishop sent his carriage for us, as he wished us to see the place for our future Convent, and also the place he had purchased for himself near it. It was a very pleasant day and the four most ancient had a very pleasant drive. The place where our future Convent is to be, belongs at present to a Mr. Wynn, who was member of parliament for Wallara, but being a bigoted Protestant, was

put out at the late election, chiefly
 through the influence of the Bricets.
 In consequence he is disgusted here,
 and his daughters are anxious to go to
 Melbourne, where they hope to see
 more society, and so have persuaded
 their Pa to sell his beautiful place
 which he spent a fortune in build-
 ing and planting. It is a splendid
 house with two fronts, one towards
 Stuart Street, as it is called, but it is
 farther from the town and street
 than the Loretto Convent, Richmond,
 is from Wexford, though the road is
 a continuation of Stuart Street. The
 other front is in a kind of park where
 the Botanical Gardens are; there are
 carriage drives all through this park;
 one passes the door, but the house and
 gardens are enclosed with an orna-
 mental fence. The house is built

of a kind of Caen-coloured stone, it is two stories high, and has a balcony of stone round it, flower-and-kitchen-garden, greenhouse etc, but I will give a minute description of the establishment if ever we get into it. The view from the grounds is beautiful, of course we only drove round the house as it were to see the Park and Botanical Gardens. Lake Windourra is so large that in summer there is a steamer on it for pleasure parties; we saw several little boats, and there are boat-houses built along the shore. There are beautiful mountain-views opposite the house, and the town of Ballarat at one side, part of it in the valley and part rising on the opposite hill where St. Alexius' Church and Rectory are. St. Alexius' our present



Te Deum for a Safe Arrival

“The Te Deum was intoned from the altar and taken up by the choir, all standing.”



alone, is at the top of the hill, Ballarat east and west, and Mr Wynne's place at the top of a hill at the extreme end of Ballarat west. The Bishop's new purchase is about 10 minutes walk from Mr Wynne's one of the reasons why his Lordship wishes to get this place for the convent is that he intends to build a College with his own residence at "Michael's Mount" as we call the Bishop's, and as Chaplains would find it easy to come to "Mary's Mount" for morning Mass. There is nothing built at present on the Bishop's ground but stables and coach-house, but the whole is magnificently laid out in pleasure-grounds, and planted with every variety of tree and plant, we got handfuls of camellias, growing

just like the roses at home: - the broad walks are covered deeply with the gold-coloured sand, and at every corner where they meet are little upright metal tubes and brass cocks, full of water for the garden. Instead of box-edging, rosemary is planted here at St. Sulpice; it grows about half a foot high, is cut like box and makes a very fragrant border.

The Bishop and Dean met us at Michael's Mount. One of the Sisters asked the Dean whose was the beautiful open carriage at the gate; he said: "It was mine once, but of course it is the Bishop's now."

Indeed the Dean never thinks of keeping anything for himself; he is the kindest and most generous man in the world to us, looks after everything for us, keeps his

housekeeper here to cook for us, to be
 sure that we shall have everything
 of the best, and that he will have
 all the bills; he goes to her once or
 twice a week, to see that she does
 not spare herself or the catables, and
 as she was for years cook at M^{rs}
 Wynnis, we have everything in first-
 rate style. I had to appeal to the
 Bishop for a mitigation of some of
 our costly fare; the Bishop says
 the only thing the Dean wants is a
 little of the spirit of holy poverty;
 still he is the shrewdest man in
 the Colony and one of the cleverest
 about business, so that it is almost
 a proverb that there is no use in
 trying to deceive D^r Moore, and he
 manages all the secular business
 of the Bishop, who appreciates him
 as he deserves. Every day both of

them come together to see us. On
 our way home we were in at the
 Bishop's temporary residence. I
 could not tell you how pretty
 it is; two palm trees at each side
 of the hall door, and several nice
 little shrubs on a kind of terrace
 in front. Bridget was glad to see us
 and had champagne and cake read
 for us by the Dean's orders, which
 are equal to Martin's orders "here".
 On the way home we saw the house
 in town the Bishop is anxious to
 get for the Day school, it is a large
 two-storied brick house with a
 garden in the front and rear.
 At present it is a Protestant College
 where young ladies and gentlemen
 are educated; it is a pity to know
 some Catholic girls are in it.
 While waiting to know how the





The Nun's First View of Lake Wendouree

"The view of Lake Wendouree was stunning, with little boats and boathouses along the shore."

question of the two boxes will be settled. I may tell you of some of our presents and gifts. On the feast of M. R. A. the Bishop's house-keeper came to us and gave us two parcels, which she said the Bishop sent. I thought they were some dainties such as he had sent before, and did not open them till she was gone; the parcels contained a very handsome silver tea and coffee-pot, sugar-bowl, tongs, and cream-swever. I put them on our altar I had settled for my dear M. R. A. and had said while arranging it: "Now Mother what are you going to send as a present, that I may put it on your altar?" I did not expect a tea-service, to be sure, but I put it all the same on the little altar in our Community.

noon, to make the Bishop laugh
 when he came to see us in the mor-
 ning. A gentleman, a M^r Lough-
 man gave the Dean £100 for us, he
 is a young man from Co. Wickliffe
 and very rich; realizes in the mines
 £15,000 per annum, but says he
 thinks this may not last; we said
 we would pray that he might get
 £30,000 next year. I thought he
 might be a relation of M^r Lough-
 man's, Enniscorthy; he came to
 see us with the Dean, also a M^r
 Murphy, first Catholic Mayor of
 Ballarat. He went with the Dean
 to get a little money for us from
 those who could spare it; they
 got a good deal, I think, but al-
 though the Dean said he would
 give me the list, he was only giv-
 ing me instead a cheque book.

telling me to draw on the bank
 when I would require it. One of
 the Priests told me there was ^{was} a
 secret of the Dean's on the list;
 he had to put himself down for
 £100, to get a good sum out of a
 man who is rich but close, and
 would not give more than Dr.
 Moore. It is well to see people con-
 sider the Loretto Nuns as a charity,
 but even here our name for being
 rich followed us; it was industri-
 ously circulated, I suppose by those
 who did not wish to give, that we did
 not know what to do with our
 money, and that one of the ^{Prs}
 alone had £15,000; and poor
 people told us they were ashamed
 to bring little presents to such
 rich ladies; the Dean had much
 trouble to disabuse the people of

This ^{error} motion, but he succeeded.
 A lady sent us a chest of tea,
 consists of choice coffee, and an
 ancient set of china brought from
 and used too, I am sure, in China.
 curious little cups and saucers
 without handles; and cups with
 lids, and Chinese tea pot with gold
 wire handles, bowls, and plates. The
 Bishop said he thought one of the
 large plates would bring £5 from
 a China-fancier. I wish someone
 would buy them from us, and
 our little Chapel would have the
 benefit. A lady who hears cana-
 ries brought us a beautiful one,
 and such a singer! I often
 think when I hear it on the ver-
 andah, that dear S. M. Gertrude
 would enjoy it; the cage is, like
 most things, "very superior" of

The Playful Dogs

"Our domestic pets include two splendid dogs, Muff and Darkie, who are gentle yet lively."





its friend, having at the corners, instead of wire, stained glass, (it has a pretty effect in the sun) - little bells outside, and a swing like a parrot's cage. Helen cares it. Our other domestic pets are chiefly two splendid dogs. I M. Conception would like to hear of. One is new, about the size of a calf, - an immense animal, gentle as a lamb with us, but his bark is the terror of the neighbourhood. His name is Muff, and we are getting one exactly like him from Ararat for our new convent. Our other dumb friend, Dartie, is black, curly, water dog, lively and quick, quite a contrast to Muff, but so kind to him that he will obligingly bring his friend part of his dinner of bones, to

save him the trouble of coming for it, but he does not patronize the cat to the same extent as Muff. I often see Pussy come out of the kitchen to where Muff is lying, purr all round him, and then seat herself between his paws, he puts his chin on her head and both look quite satisfied. Darbie looks on, and never interferes, the children and hens pick up the crumbs quite close to them, and altogether they remind one of the "Happy Family".

The first Protestant Bishop of Ballarat has arrived, after remaining a few days in Melbourne to give time for a reception to be got up for him here. Great exertions were made to have it like Dr. O'Connor's, but it was a failure,

of course they could not agree.
 One of the first of his
 Church here said Dr. Thornton
 could not be called Bishop of Wal-
 larat, - the Bishop of Wallarat. Dr.
 O'Connor had been here for the
 last six months. It is thought
 the poor man will have to re-
 turn whence he came, as no one
 could support wife and family
 on what the V. are inclined to
 give for the Protestant religion.
 There are immense numbers of
 Wesleyans and Jews here also
 Chinese, who are of course tecto-
 llers; there are not any in the
 city, but they have settlements,
 or, as they are called, "camps"; they
 have the reputation of being the
 greatest rogues in the world.
 It is very rare to see a black native

in the town, we have not seen one yet. This is a great place for Germans, there are over 400 in Wallarua. S. M. Warriface is giving instructions to one who comes with his Irish wife, who almost succeeded in making a Catholic of him, and he will very soon be received into the True Church I hope; there are many converts here I. G. Now a word about snakes and the weather, then I think I am done, at least till I send you a budget from Lake Wondawong. I am glad to be able to tell you that all arrangements are concluded, and we hope to be looking out on that fair scene in about a week from tomorrow.

Wednesday 8th September. As to the snakes, it is said there are no such things in the town at all, but they are common



Firewood Discovery

"We beat it with the poker and 3 large centipedes appeared... they were about the length of a long finger."



enough in the country and in the
 Bush. The S^ts of Mercy, - who live
 a hundred miles from this, and
 are the only nuns in the diocese
 except ourselves, - have plenty of
 them in the hot season & heliac,
 they are never seen except in the hot
 weather. On the other hand I was
 speaking to a woman who has
 been 17 years in different parts of the
 Colony, and she said she never saw
 a snake yet, while Miss Coghlan
 of Wexford, who has not been out
 one year, told me she saw one that
 was killed in the paddocks near the
 house, but 4 miles from town.
 Centipedes are dangerous here,
 for their bite is poisonous, and
 they infect some places. A young
 lady who had been at the Geelong
 Convent, D. of Melbourne, told

and the children there used to look for them under the pillows before going to bed, but I did not hear any of them were ever bitten: this Miss Ellis' own brother was bitten severely by one in the knee, and had to get the piece cut out. The other morning a very large log of much decayed wood was put on the fire, and Helen Hughes discovered some little animals running about it; we beat it with the pottor and 3 large centipedes appeared, they were about the length of a long finger, and had flat heads, and of course were running as fast as their hundred legs could carry them, we gave them as quick a death as we could. Two or three baby lizards came to see us, they are quite



Snakes in the Countryside

“The sisters of Mercy, who live a hundred miles from this and are the only nuns in the diocese except ourselves, have plenty of snakes in the hot season.”



harmless. Every day we say a
prayer to Saint Patrick to pre-
serve us from snakes and venom-
ous reptiles, so we hope he will
look after his children in a land
unknown when he was on earth.





